

Israel to test Arrow missile in two weeks

U.S. to pay for second phase of project

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The commander of the Israeli air force said in an interview broadcast Saturday that Israel would likely launch its first test of the Arrow missile within two weeks.

The Arrow is being developed with U.S. strategic defence initiative (SDI) funds to combat short-range ballistic missiles.

In Washington, the U.S. Defence Department announced Friday that it would pay for the second phase of the Arrow programme.

Washington provided 80 per cent of the \$153 million in the first phase of the project, and Israel's defence ministry supplied the balance. Israel is seeking about \$200 million from the United States for the second phase.

Air force commander Avihu Bin Nun, speaking on Israel Radio, said the Arrow could be operational within five years.

When asked if the first test would be launched within two weeks, he said: "This is a good assumption."

The Arrow, which has already

undergone three simulated ground tests, is designed to defend against ballistic missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometres or less.

Bin Nun said the Arrow was needed in light of efforts by Iraq and Syria to develop chemical and nuclear warheads.

"The Arrow can give a solution mainly when the threat is going to be an unconventional threat, Bin Nun said on the radio. "If the Iraqis go farther with their plans and develop a nuclear capability, the Arrow could be an answer to stop any missile."

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Friday after talks with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney that he and Cheney discussed the Arrow in the context of U.S.-Israeli "security" relations during their three-hour meeting, the first high-level official discussions between the two countries since the formation of a right-wing Israeli government last month.

"We... discussed the Arrow programme, to which we attach

very great importance and as you know is a part of the SDI programme," Arens told reporters after the meeting.

"The secretary (Cheney) said that the United States would support the continuation of the programme, stage two of the programme, although the details of the support would have to be discussed," Arens said.

The meeting with Cheney, announced Thursday, was set up shortly after Arens was named defence minister last month, a Defence Department spokesman said.

Before the meeting, Israeli officials said Arens would discuss with Cheney the possibility of continuing the Arrow project with missile production expected in five years.

The Pentagon discussions and next month's meeting appeared to signal a slight warming of relations between the two countries, which have been strained since Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the rightist Likud party, balked at a U.S.

plan for a dialogue with Palestinians to prepare for Palestinian elections.

While Cheney and Arens talked at a Pentagon lunch, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler also faced questions about the postponement of a scheduled meeting of a joint committee that coordinates the nearly \$2 billion in U.S. military aid to Israel.

Tutwiler denied the move was a slap at Shamir's new government.

"The postponement was an agreement between the United States government and the Israeli government. As you know, we are in the midst of a budget summit and there's a great deal of work associated with the summit negotiations," she said.

"As a result of that, we've postponed the annual joint security assistance planning meeting and have mutually agreed with Israel to hold it in September to give us more time to prepare."

The ministers were not expected to discuss Middle East peace efforts. The United States is still awaiting a definitive Israeli answer to its proposals to start a

peace dialogue with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The Pentagon discussions are the first at the ministerial level between Israel and the United States since formation of a right-wing Israeli government in June.

"We want to develop a credible basis on which to move the peace process forward," said Tutwiler.

Arens initiated his visit when Cheney contacted him to congratulate him on being named defence minister, a Pentagon spokesman said.

"These talks are part of a long-standing series of discussions between the United States

and Israeli defence secretaries, and with other friends, about a whole range of security issues," the spokesman added.

Arens got a "full honour" welcoming ceremony at the Pentagon, complete with ruffles and flourishes from the U.S. army band and a 19-gun salute. — 21-gun salutes being reserved for heads of state.

Arens inspected the assembled U.S. troops and gave a warm greeting to General Colin Powell, head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, who toured the Middle East this month.

Egyptian paper renews war of words with Arafat

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Egyptian newspaper Saturday renewed attacks on Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), for remarks seen as critical of Egypt's links with the United States.

On Thursday, Egyptian dailies had quoted Arafat as telling Arab foreign ministers that Washington was very generous in its aid to Israel, "while American aid to Egypt has reached the point where Egypt gets wheat week by week."

In an early edition of Saturday's Al-Akhar newspaper, editor-in-chief Ibrahim Saadeh wrote: "I don't know who among us went to tell (Arafat) about the hunger Egyptians suffer every time the weekly wheat shipment is late."

Referring to Arafat's strong personal links with Egypt, he said: "Despite this he does not let an occasion go by without seizing the chance to stab this (Egyptian) identity, to try to tear it up and injure it — one time with injustice and a thousand and one times with slander."

An Egyptian official was quoted Friday as saying Egypt had wheat stocks of three to four months and another official told the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper, "Egypt refuses the slanderous campaign against it by some Arab parties."

PLO-Egyptian relations have been uneasy for some time because of a widespread feeling in the Palestinian movement that Egypt is too vulnerable to U.S. pressure on Middle East policy. Egypt receives \$2.3 billion a year in U.S. social and military aid, second only to the Jewish state.

The PLO, responding to the reactions, has said some media tried to distort Arafat's words. On Thursday Arafat sent Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak what the PLO called an "urgent and important" message.

Meanwhile a columnist suggested that Arafat stay away from Cairo for 10 years.

The editorial blasts, authored by three of Egypt's top journalists, was the second on the PLO chairman this year.

Although they berated a new chill in Egyptian-PLO relations, government sources said this would not affect Cairo's support of the organisation in future Middle East peace moves.

Identical accounts of the criticism by Arafat and Aziz were published in Cairo newspapers

Thursday in what officials acknowledged as a government leak. The reports said Arafat lamented the absence of Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid from the council session, which had been called at ministerial level. Abdel Meguid was busy in Egypt with a visit by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad coinciding with the league meeting.

"Tell me, Abu Ammar: how and when will you turn up in Cairo?" wrote columnist Anis Mansour Saturday in the leading newspaper Al-Ahram, using Arafat's nom de guerre. "In 10 years?"

"I swear to you... that millions of Egyptians hate the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo and hate even more the fact that there are only 100 metres between the league building and the Nile River. The distance would make it difficult for them to throw the building into the Nile to avoid seeing your faces."

The league headquarters, moved from Cairo to Tunis in 1959 to protest Egypt's treaty with Israel, is to move back to the Egyptian capital in the fall. This was decided after the league ended its suspension of Egypt's membership last year.

Samir Ragab, board chairman of the newspaper Al-Gomhuria, charged that the PLO was out to sabotage Egypt's role. He said Palestinian leaders were piqued by the return of the headquarters to Cairo, the scheduling of the next Arab summit in the Egyptian capital in November and the rapprochement between Egypt and Syria after a 12-year rift.

Ragab said Arafat seized on the league meeting in Tunis to "stab Egypt, sow disagreement among the Arabs and thereby block the way to next November's summit in Cairo... Arafat is playing a dangerous game against Egypt and its Arab role."

A similar outburst against the PLO by editors of state-owned newspapers occurred last February after the organisation failed to condemn explicitly an attack on a bus carrying Israeli tourists near Cairo. Nine of 31 Israelis aboard the bus were killed in a hail of automatic fire from two gunmen.

The February tension quickly blew over and Egypt continued to serve as the principal conduit between the PLO on one hand and the United States and Israel on the other in regional peace efforts.

Qadhafi accuses U.S. of using AIDS, flies to attack world

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi accused U.S. intelligence services of creating the AIDS virus and spreading it throughout the world, according to a dispatch Friday from the country's official news agency.

The agency also quoted Qadhafi as saying that the United States was using the screwworm fly as a weapon against Libya.

Qadhafi made the accusation in a speech Thursday night to youth groups, the official agency JANA said.

Speaking of AIDS, the Libyan leader said: "This disease is made by the U.S. intelligence and came out of the acts of their factories," JANA reported.

"It was the U.S. that brought the virus and experimented it on the prisoners, released them and as a result they spread AIDS in the world," said the English-language dispatch.

During his address to the youth groups, Qadhafi also said that the deadly screwworm which has been causing damage in northern Libya was sent by the United States.

"The Americans are still fighting us. They sent a fly from America and spread it in Libya," JANA quoted Qadhafi as saying. The Libyan leader charged that Americans hid the fly in pipes and commodities that Libya imported, the agency said.

"This fly was exported deliberately to Libya to wipe out all the animals in it," JANA said.

The screwworm was first spotted in northern Libya in 1988. Washington recently agreed to allow U.S. technology and personnel to go to the country to help in eradication of the fly, despite U.S. sanctions against Libya.

The screwworm was declared eradicated in the United States in 1982. The U.S. government has spent millions of dollars to kill it off in Mexico and Central America so it does not return to the United States.

U.S. officials said they agreed to help eradicate the fly in Libya for humanitarian reasons and because the programme was being carried out by an international organisation.

So far, the screwworm has not spread to other parts of Northern

Africa. The insect eats away at the flesh of its victims.

Qadhafi has called for the execution of members of Islamic extremist movements, JANA reported.

"Anyone who belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood movement or 'Expiation, Hijra and Notification' is doomed and must be executed because his existence harms others," Qadhafi said.

The Muslim Brotherhood is the largest social, political and religious movement in the Middle East in this century, and was involved in extremist activities until the 1970s. Hijra and Notification refer to people who take off 40 days every year to four selected areas to remind Muslims of Islamic orthodoxy.

It was not clear what Expiation referred to. The groups all call for legal implementation of the Sharia.

Qadhafi also singled out members of the anti-communist Mujahideen guerrillas fighting in Afghanistan, as well as the extreme right-wing Takfir Wai Hijra, which is a dissident offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, and Al Daawa, a fundamentalist group with many followers in Iraq.

He said the groups "cover themselves with Islam," JANA reported.

"The killing of those who hide behind Islam is legitimate, because they are poisonous, devils and fire-worshippers who want to sabotage Islam," Qadhafi said in his speech to youth groups, JANA reported.

Referring to the Afghan guerrillas who receive U.S. aid, Qadhafi was quoted as saying: "Which Islam is that which comes from the house of Carter, and which Jihad is that in Afghanistan, which is led and supported by U.S.?"

Qadhafi has warned repeatedly that fundamentalism threatens to divide the Arab World, but his statements reported Friday were among his strongest yet on the subject.

Tripoli-based diplomats have said Qadhafi faces a growing challenge at home as Islamic fundamentalism makes strong inroads in northern Africa and the Middle East.

Eritrea peace talks snag over U.N. role

SANAA (AP) — A new round of peace talks between Eritrean rebels and the Ethiopian government to end a 29-year-old war failed to get off the ground Saturday because of a snag over the United Nations' role, officials and diplomats reported.

Foreign Ministry officials, speaking on condition they were not named, said the Yemeni-sponsored talks were postponed until Aug. 15.

They said the Eritreans wanted the United Nations to organise a plebiscite in their north Ethiopian province, where they have been waging a secessionist war since 1961.

But diplomatic sources, also speaking on condition of anonymity, noted that such U.N. representation would be difficult because there was no U.N. resolution on which it could be based.

Eritrea province, Ethiopia's only under the Red Sea, was under Italian rule from 1891 until allied armies took it in 1941. It was under British military administration for the following 11 years.

Ethiopia and Eritrea later joined in a federation. But the Eritreans launched their guerrilla war for independence in 1961.

Ethiopia annexed Eritrea a year later.

A spokesman for the Ethiopian embassy in Sanaa said that the Eritrean call for U.N. representation was "no problem from our side. It has not been rejected by us."

But he added: "It's the United Nations which rejects such participation because they consider the problem to be an 'internal problem... as far as I know, there are no relevant U.N. resolutions on the issue.'"

Yemen earlier this year hosted a first round of talks between the Ethiopians and a group of rebel factions united under the banner of the Eritrean Liberation Front.

The talks were postponed until later this year to allow time for the Eritrean demand for U.N. representation to be sorted out.

The same Eritrean demand in talks hosted by Sudan a year earlier also broke down over the U.N. issue.

The strongest of the rebel factions, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, was involved in separate peace talks last year that were sponsored by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Those negotiations have also deadlocked.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary
18:10	Local programme
18:20	Programme review
18:30	News in Arabic
18:35	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:45	Local programme
23:30	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:45	Cartoons
18:15	Documentary
18:15	News in French
18:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Variety programme
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Play Day
21:10	The Nuclear Age
22:40	News in English
23:30	Humor
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 610740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 671440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625403	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
St. International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 615817 and 654932	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:00	Fajr
05:30	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:42	Dhuhr
16:25	'Asr
19:45	Maghrib
21:16	Isha
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be westerly to north-westerly moderate and seas calm.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Anwar Musa Al Haj	771020
Dr. Basim Al Qaddumi	646024
Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad	744685
Dr. Anwar Aqabawi	646096
First pharmacy	622520
Farid pharmacy	776336
Al Anwar pharmacy	637035
Naironk pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsani pharmacy	637660
ZARQA:	
Dr. Maysoon Hanna	(-)
Khalidh pharmacy	565417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	773121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
Overseas Calls	121
Central Amman Telephone	010230
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	615615
Electric Power	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
09:45	Doha (KU)
10:00	Jeddah (SV)
10:30	Kuwait (KF)
11:30	Cairo (EG)
13:30	Tripoli (LN)
14:30	Dubai (EK)
15:25	Frankfurt (LH)
16:35	Beirut (ME)
22:45	Aden (OA)
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Akshat Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642562
Melhor, J. Amn	636140
Palestine, Shamsani	664173
Shamsani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munabbir Hospital	667277
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/31
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164
Italian, Al-Munabbir	771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775112/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
Beirut	
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)910171
Bin Sina Hospital	(09)98732
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
12:00	Cairo (RJ)
12:30	Tripoli (LN)
12:40	Doha (KU)
13:30	Kuwait (KF)
14:30	Jeddah (SV)
15:25	Frankfurt (LH)
16:35	Beirut (ME)
22:45	Aden (OA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:25	Larnaca (CY)
11:50	Jeddah (SV)
12:30	Kuwait (KF)
13:30	Cairo (EG)
13:30	Tripoli (LN)
14:30	Dubai (EK)
15:25	Frankfurt (LH)
16:35	Beirut (ME)
22:45	Aden (OA)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.	
Apple	700/600
Apricot	600/500
Banana	300/450
Banana (Mukammal)	400/400
Banana	420/380
Cabbage	130/90
Carrot	200/150
Cauliflower	200/150
Corn	200/150
Cucumber (large)	100/50
Cucumber (small)	150/100
Eggplant	220/90
Garlic	300/250
Green pepper	1100/900
Lemon	300/250
Mallow	400/400
Marrow (large)	100/50
Marrow (small)	150/100
Onion (dry)	200/150
Orange	300/250
Peach	300/250
Pepper (hot)	600/500
Pepper (sweet)	300/250
Potato	200/150
Sage	500/400
Sweet melon	100/50
Tomato	100/50
Watermelon	50/30

Crime figures rise

AMMAN (J.T.) — There has been a noticeable increase in the volume of crime committed in Jordan over the past six months as compared with the previous year, but the problem has not reached the dangerous line and can be contained, according to Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali Fheid.

Fheid gave no figures about the total number of crimes committed in the country, but earlier statistics put the number at around 18,000.

"Since the last month of 1989 the PSD started facing additional burdens, heavier than ever before following the beginning of the democratisation process in the country," Fheid said.

He said that police in different areas reported acts of anarchy, irresponsibility and even sabotage, damage to other people's property and attack on individuals.

"The PSD, of course, has the right and the authority to intervene and stop such actions so that the process of democratisation can go ahead unhindered," Fheid added.

"The PSD does not allow violations of the law and can not condone acts of intellectual terrorism" he imposed by certain groups on others as has happened with some who took advantage of democracy."

He attributed the increase in crimes to growing unemployment, rise in prices, the deteriorating purchasing power of the Jordanian dinar, the ongoing socio-economic change in society, difficult economic conditions prevailing in the Kingdom and the misinterpretation of the concept of democratisation among Jordanians.

Last year the PSD blamed 1,000 crimes committed in Jordan on non-Jordanian workers employed in the country who, at the time, totalled 226,754.

Fheid blamed the non-Jordanian and the Jordanian students studying abroad for the increase in drug taking in the Kingdom.

He said that the Kingdom is not a major consumer or producer of drugs, but its territory is being used to transport the drugs to neighbouring states.

"The PSD is intensifying its cooperation with European countries like Germany and France and with Arab countries at large to stem the danger of drug trafficking in the Arab area," Fheid said in his statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that one in every 10,000 people in the country is regarded to be a drug addict.

Concerned about this, Fheid added, the PSD is bolstering operations of the Badia and Border Police Forces.

These forces, he said, are deployed along the Jordanian-Syrian, Jordanian-Iraq and Jordanian-Saudi borders as well as the Aqaba and Wadi Araba regions.

In reply to a question about fire arms possessed by citizens, Fheid said that the PSD had lately eased restrictions and made it easier for people to own weapons, but these have to be licensed in accordance with regulations.

These licences, he said, are given to citizens to possess but not to carry and use their weapons as they choose.

The PSD earlier this month announced a sharp rise in the number of thefts and robberies in the Kingdom in the first five months of 1990, registering 19.5 per cent increase over the same period of 1989.

According to the PSD, a total of 262 cars were reported stolen in the first five months of 1990 as compared to 176 in the same period of 1989.



Their Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Surayh, who returned home Saturday from visits to Britain and Spain, are received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal (Petra photo)

Crown Prince returns

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home Saturday after a working visit to the United Kingdom during which he met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Prince Hassan and Hurd held talks on the situation in the Middle East region, developments in the Jordanian arena and bilateral relations between Jordan and Britain.

Prince Hassan has also visited Durham University where he received an honorary doctorate degree in civil law in appreciation for his role at the Jordanian and the international levels. The degree is given to statesmen who contributed to the development of their countries.

During his visit the Crown Prince held meetings with journalistic institutions and explained the different aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Prince Hassan also visited Spain at the invitation of King Juan Carlos. Prince Hassan met the Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and held talks with him on the Middle East situation and the cultural relations between Jordan and Spain.

Prince Hassan also took part in an Iberian-Latin American-Arab conference held in Seville to enhance cultural dialogue between the Arab and Latin American states and to bolster cooperation between them in all possible fields.

Prince Hassan delivered the opening address at the conference.

The Crown Prince also laid the foundation stone for the Jordanian wing at Seville International Fair which will open in 1992.

Prince Hassan was received upon arrival in Amman by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sulaiman Arar, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, chief chamberlain and several senior officials.

King receives Turkish, Saudi cables

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received two cables from Turkish President Turgut Ozal, sent in reply to a cable of condolences over the death of the Turkish pilgrims in Al Muhaimin tunnel incident at the beginning of July and from King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia in reply to a cable by the King after ending his visit to Saudi Arabia last week.

King Fahd expressed his joy over King Hussein's visit and wished the King good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

King congratulates Poland

King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski in which he congratulated him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Poland's national day anniversary. King Hussein wished Jaruzelski good health and happiness and the Polish people further progress and prosperity.

Pakistani judge calls for Islamic support for Jordan

By Ica Wabbah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan deserves the support of the entire Islamic World in its efforts to liberate the holy places from Israeli occupation and it is an Islamic duty to extend such assistance to the Kingdom, according to the Chief Islamic Justice of Pakistan.

Jordan is doing "everything it can" to free the Israeli-occupied territories and "it is the duty of every Muslim to extend all forms of support" for the Kingdom in its endeavours, said Sheikh Gul Mohammad Khan.

Sheikh Khan, who presides over the Federal Sharia Court of Pakistan, said he found that Pakistan could benefit from Jordan's experience in applying Sharia law, "an experience that goes back to the time of the Turkish Ottoman empire."

Sheikh Khan pointed out that his country, which was created in 1947, had very little experience in applications of Islamic laws until 1976 when then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto enacted a series of legislations. In comparison, Sheikh Khan said, Islamic laws were in practice in the region even after World War I, when the Ottoman Empire disintegrated and the Emirate of Transjordan was created in 1920.

He noted that His Majesty King Hussein, realising the need to absorb issues such as insurance, inheritance, etc. into the legislation of the country, modified the "majaalla," which dates back to the Ottomans, and enacted new legislation in 1976.

In Pakistan, under the influence of the British and under several military rulers, Sharia could not be applied till 1976 when Bhutto changed direction totally to Islam. Qadianis (followers of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, self-proclaimed prophet, who do not believe in the finality of the prophet Muhammad) were declared non-Muslims. Gambling was banned as being against Islam and so was the use of liquors and intoxicants. "By 1979 Islam was enforced in its totality" and under Muhammad Zia Ul Haq, who toppled Bhutto in a coup but followed in the



Sheikh Gul Mohammad Khan

prince minister's moves in enforcing Islamic laws, the trend was further strengthened. The moves culminated in the creation of the Federal Sharia Court chaired by Sheikh Khan, who was previously a judge at the Lahore High Court.

Replying questions about his background, Sheikh Khan volunteered to explain that he was not involved in the trial of Bhutto, who was sentenced to death on murder charges and was hanged in 1979. "I was a judge at the Lahore court, but not in the same court which ordered the death sentence," he said.

Asked what specific areas of cooperation between Jordan and Pakistan in Islamic affairs were covered during his talks here, Khan said: "as Muslims, followers of Islam, cooperation is all encompassing, covering all realms as the Holy Book covers all aspects of life."

During his stay here, Sheikh Khan held talks with King Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Justice Minister Yusef Mbeideen, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mbeilan, other senior officials as well as judges and members of Parliament.

In reply to another question, Sheikh Khan reiterated Pakistan's known positions in support of the Palestinian cause, but framed the stance in an Islamic perspective. "The Kabaa, the Mosque of the Holy Prophet and Al Quds are very near to a Muslim's heart," he said. "Al Quds is the first Kabaa of Islam. No Muslim will live with the fact that this holy place is in the control of any party other than Muslims themselves. No sacrifice will be too much for taking the control back."

"It is the duty of every Muslim to extend support for Jordan, in whatever form, in its efforts to liberate the holy places but all support should come within the laws of this country," he added.

The Indo-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir was characterised by Sheikh Khan as one of honouring of commitments. He said that the government of India had committed before the United Nations that Kashmir was a "disputed territory" and that Kashmiris alone were

House approves abolition of NMI

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday approved a motion moved by the government to abolish the 1987 law establishing the National Medical Institution (NMI).

The House was acting upon recommendations from both its legal and health committees. The NMI was established in 1987 and intended to group all health services provided by the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Health and the universities under one umbrella.

The House decision, however, drew a 2-hour debate. Most deputies agreed that the concept of unifying medical services in one

body was a sound one, but insisted that that 1987 law and its application had their shortcomings.

The NMI had earlier in the year come under fierce attack from deputies and the public for allegations of mismanagement.

Informed sources say that some of the institutions merged and many doctors, especially Armed Forces doctors, were against the NMI.

Deputies and both the legal and the health committees proposed that the government draft a new legislation to replace the NMI law. The legal committee, reporting to the House, said it has got a pledge from the government to this effect.

"It does not matter cancelling or retaining the NMI," the legal committee said in its verdict, "most important is keeping all medical services under one central authority."

The committee proposed a higher health council to group all health services. Deputies also proposed that medical personnel in the different institutions receive equal salaries and benefits.

At the moment the Armed Forces doctors and medical personnel get higher salaries and enjoy better fringe benefits.

Leftist deputy Bassam Haddadin protested that "establishing the NMI was a hasty decision and cancelling it is hasty too."

Haddadin proposed that the government draft a new law for the institution that would ensure better health services.



Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghababsheh Saturday opens the Ajloun youth camp for Jordanian expatriates (Petra photo)

Youth camp opened in Ajloun

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghababsheh Saturday deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in opening a week-long youth camp in Ajloun, which expatriate young Jordanians are taking part.

The camp, organised in Ajloun, has 100 youths who work or study abroad.

"The Ministry of Youth seeks to maintain strong ties with Jordanians abroad, at all levels, through constant correspondence and by supplying the news about their country and various youth activities taking part in the Kingdom," said the minister in an address at the opening ceremony.

Participants will listen to a series of lectures of political, cultural and economic nature and will go on tours to different cities and archaeological sites in Jordan. They will also meet prominent people from the private and public sectors.

AFFI meeting tackles the problem of food sufficiency

AMMAN (Petra) — The question of food sufficiency has now become an important strategy of international dimensions and its importance is increased every day due to the recurring deficit of food production, Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim said Saturday.

"The Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI) is trying through various efforts and at all levels to boost agricultural production and increase food processing operations with the purpose of ensuring food security which, in turn, can ensure sovereignty and independence for Arab states," Ibrahim said in an address at the opening session of a three-day meeting organised by the AFFI at the Amman-based CAEU.

The AFFI, he said, is considered one of the most important Arab League agencies in economic fields.

The meeting, the 18th of its kind, is scheduled to discuss the AFFI's activities in 1990 and to pave the way for a pan-Arab meeting to discuss vegetable oil processing industries and hold seminars on economic matters related to the manufacture of soap and chemical detergents as well as the projected Arab fair for food industries.

According to Ibrahim, the food industries' situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands and AFFI's plans for 1991 will also be among the topics for discussion.

Insurance companies protest 10 per cent additional fee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Insurance companies operating in Jordan have appealed to the government to cancel an additional 10 per cent fee imposed as of last month on all insurance policies except life insurance.

A memorandum submitted to Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz said that the additional 10 per cent charge was bound to obstruct the work of all insurance companies and inflict heavy losses on them.

The memorandum, submitted by the President of the Jordanian Federation of Insurance Companies, said that insurance on cars would be specially affected since people who used to fully insure their vehicles will now opt for a third-party insurance to cut down on expenses and those insured against fire will cancel their insurance policies since they are not forced by law to make such insurance.

The memorandum also pointed out that merchants insuring their imported goods will turn to foreign companies which offer reduced insurance rates; those making accidents insurance policies are bound to cancel them since this practice is not obligatory by law.

The memorandum submitted a substitute set of proposals, should the petition for cancelling the 10 per cent extra charge prove unacceptable.

It suggested that an additional tax be imposed on car owners, more fees be imposed on importers of foreign products, a new tax be imposed on a merchant upon obtaining licence for exercising the profession.

The substitute set of regulations, as suggested by the federation, the memorandum noted, can ensure the extra amounts of fees sought by the government to finance the Civil Defence operations which necessitated the imposition of the 10 per cent extra fee in the first place.

Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

announcing a pay rise for seven million teachers and health workers.

But Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's rival plan for a market economy — dubbed the "500 day confidence mandate," — was also released by Interfax. It called for guaranteed private property rights in the first 100 days.

Meanwhile unrest continued in the Soviet South and Central Asia.

Police hunted an Azerbaijani man after five people were killed and 10 wounded in an explosion on a train near the Black Sea. In Armenia, nationalists stole weapons, shot at and set fire to government offices.

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Wadi Rum prepares to receive mountaineers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism has completed work on a resthouse and a camping site for tourists at Wadi Rum in the south eastern deserts and the facilities will be fully operational by the beginning of September 1990, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kababji announced Saturday.

The Ministry of Tourism, he said, expects a large number of tourists, specially mountaineers, to visit the site and practice mountaineering.

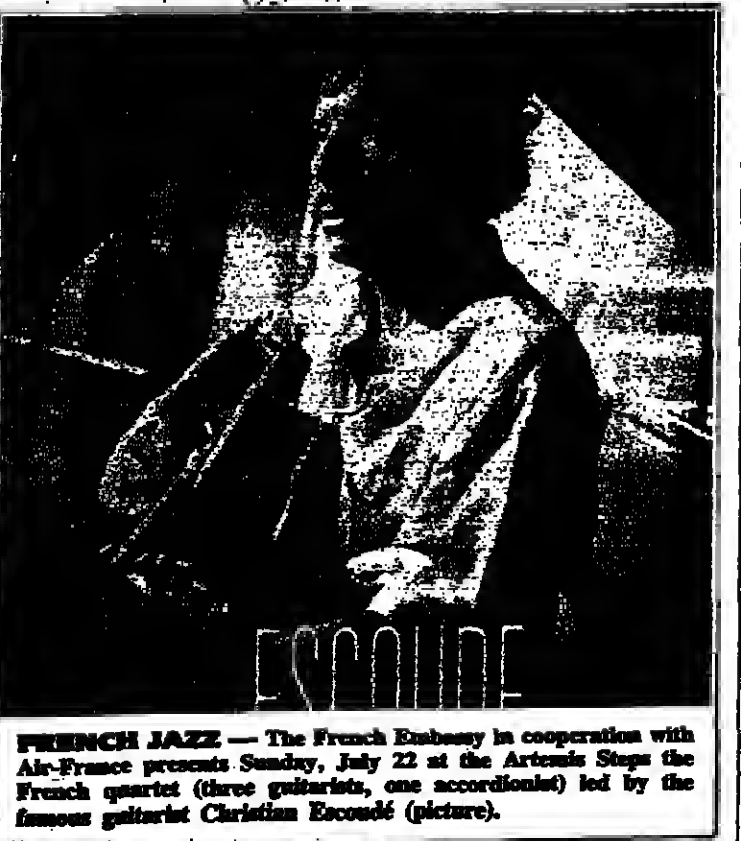
Kababji was speaking at a special ceremony for presenting diplomas and certificates of merit to Atiq Eid Al Zalabieh, from the Wadi Rum region, who has just completed a training course in Britain and Switzerland on mountain climbing and rescue operations.

The Ministry of Tourism financed his training course in preparations for making Wadi Rum an open sports area for campers and mountaineers.

According to the minister, a special booklet will soon be issued featuring the Wadi Rum's sports facilities.

Zalabieh was interviewed about his mission by British newspapers and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

In April last year, a group of Italian tourists made a two-day tour of desert areas in the Wadi Rum and Azraq region after visiting Ghor Safi and the Dead Sea. The group was accompanied by an Italian television crew which shot a documentary film featuring the desert castles and Wadi Rum.



FRENCH JAZZ — The French Embassy in cooperation with the French quartet (three guitarists, one saxophone) led by the famous guitarist Christian Escoudé (picture).

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Roosthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
 - ★ Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Raba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting Arabian and other horses by Henri Basy at the Philadelphia Hotel.
- ### JERASH FESTIVAL
- ★ Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Yemeni folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
 - ★ Poets and poetry at Aramis Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.).
 - ★ Concert by a French quartet at Aramis Steps — 9:30 p.m.
 - ★ Concerts by Al Fuhais singing troupe at the South Theatre — 9:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Paper tiger will fall

IF there is ever a need for an Arab oil producing states' summit, it is now. With differences between OPEC's Arab states simmering for sometime and the gap between formal agreement and actual implementation widening more than ever between OPEC countries in general, it is high time that Arab OPEC countries put their heads and hearts, and in due course their act, together. The world at large is most certainly exploiting the inability or unwillingness of the OPEC countries to enforce what they solemnly undertake to honour and implement. This is particularly so in the Western industrial countries which have been taking them for an easy ride for much too long. Part of the problem lies in the fact that some OPEC countries subscribe reluctantly to the majority view without real commitment to abide by such a position. It would be wiser, therefore, to devise another formula for decision taking within OPEC with a view to assuring unanimity instead of manipulating consensus on matters that are most vital to the member states especially quota guidelines. Till now OPEC as an organisation has been continually haunted by the problem of discrepancy between word and deed and until this problem is effectively rectified, there is neither a future for the organisation nor for its member states.

From an Arab point of view, it would be prudent to keep in perspective at all times that oil energy is an exhaustible source of wealth. The time when Arab oil sources dry up, affected Arab states would not only lose an economic edge but also a political chip. In all future global bargaining on all levels, Arab oil wells will be highly prized and coveted bargaining chips that should not be squandered. In this vein the Arab perspective and priorities need not always correspond with those of other non-Arab OPEC members. And if OPEC as presently constituted is doomed to become a paper tiger, the Arab oil producing states need to form their own club to preserve and protect their special interests and priorities.



Zaki Al Ra'i

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Israeli newspapers did not conceal the fact that Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens' current visit to the United States is connected with the present Kuwait-Iraqi crisis over oil production and prices, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. These papers also disclosed indirectly that Washington is disturbed over Iraq's growing military power and is determined to prevent any Arab country from acquiring sufficient military might to achieve parity with Israel, the paper added. The paper expressed the view that Washington is trying to internationalise the Kuwait-Iraqi issue so that it can find a convenient role for Israel to interfere by dealing a blow to Iraq, supported by the United States, to the 1956 aggression on Egypt. "The Arab nation against a major Israeli-U.S. strike against the Iraqi installations as the Arabs in general and Iraq and Kuwait in particular are involved in solving the oil dispute. The paper said that the United States was trying to seize the opportunity of East-West détente and the on-going international developments in order to deal a blow to the Arab nation, create new realities in the Middle East region and ensure the permanent occupation of Arab land in Palestine. The paper called on Arab countries to consider the U.S.-Israeli threats seriously and take proper action for self-defence.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Saturday expresses dissatisfaction with the notion of linking the proposed National Charter with the democratisation process in the Kingdom. Fakhr al Kawar says that the charter has not been formulated yet, and the government is delaying any action in allowing political parties to establish their foothold in the democratisation process. The government is not allowing new political newspapers to appear and is dragging its feet over issuing a new press and publication law until and when the charter has been completed, the writer notes. This charter could take three months or three years to complete; and it seems that the government is delaying any action until this charter has been approved, a process that could take indefinite time, Kawar adds. Democracy, he notes, is not a legislative authority but it is a process that comes after free elections regardless of the presence of any National Charter. Democracy, he adds, requires from us to open the door for the masses to form political parties, issue newspapers and organise the public's various sectors. The writer expresses the view that the National Charter is not needed at present since the Jordanian constitution can provide all the necessary elements for the democratisation process.

Al Dustour daily expressed hope that the Arab League will find a proper formula to defuse the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute and safeguard the Arab nation's higher interests. The paper said that the United States was quick to seize the opportunity and disrupt Arab solidarity, simply because it aims to thwart any attempt by the Arab nation to unify its stand and pool its resources in confrontation with the common Israeli enemy. The United States is also keen on retaining its fleets and armed forces in the Gulf to maintain its supremacy there depending on regional conflicts, the paper added. What we need now, said the paper, is to prevent any foreign intervention in the inter-Arab row; and this can be done by giving the Arab League a free hand to settle the Iraqi-Kuwaiti issue once and for all.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Huge surplus in 1989 balance of payments

The Central Bank of Jordan issued a preliminary balance of payments for the year 1989. The statement reflected a surplus of JD 360 million, a surprising result which should have raised the curiosity of those who compiled the figures to look for a possible mistake, that could have caused the outcome which was too good to be believed.

Taking the figures of the balance of payments at their face value, we find that the Jordanian economy has turned around overnight to a surplus economy. The current account, which posted a deficit of JD 118 million in 1987, and JD 105 million in 1988, somehow did not only reduce the deficit gradually as was planned over five years; it also showed a surplus in the magnitude of JD 223 million in 1989, a net improvement of JD 328 million in one year.

It is understandable and expected that the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar should help the balance of trade. It is equally conceivable that the economic adjustment programme adopted since mid

April 1989, should improve the balance of payments, being the mirror that reflects the interaction between Jordan and the World. However, it never occurred to any observer or policy maker that Jordan could achieve this impressive result in a matter of months. The credit for the bottom line of the balance of payments may be a big mistake in the methodology or a huge deficiency in the data given to, or collected or estimated by the Central Bank.

The deficit in the balance of commodities narrowed from JD 638 million in 1988 to JD 577 million in 1989, a new improvement of JD 61 million. This was much less than expected in view of the reduction of imports and growth of exports, but we should question the increase in the surplus of the balance of services by JD 128 million, "especially when the Minister of Finance has already projected some worsening in the balance of services but to a lesser degree than the improvement in the balance of commodities and he expected the final outcome to

remain positive.

The figures in the balance of payments suggest that incoming remittances from Jordanian expatriates abroad rose by 7 per cent in terms of JD's, while at the same time outgoing remittances of guest workers in Jordan dropped by 9 per cent. These figures contradict our impressions, but that is not, by itself an evidence that the figures are wrong, only that they should be examined critically.

The capital account showed a big surplus as well. The government repaid JD 223 million to foreign lenders during 1989, while borrowing JD 348 million, thus the net borrowing for the year would be in the order of JD 125 million. This result, if accurate, was made possible thanks to rescheduling. Perhaps the major part of the increase in the external public debt was caused by the capitalisation of interest, rather than a fresh transfer of funds.

Apparently the reason behind these questionable figures in the balance of payments is the substantial change in the exchange rate. Banks' foreign assets were translated into JDs

at the current exchange rate which naturally showed a nominal increase, while the foreign liabilities of the government were not adjusted up, in terms of JDs to reflect the new exchange rate; otherwise government liabilities to foreign lenders would have made a big jump.

On the other hand it is suspected that the huge surplus of JD 360 million in the banking sector could have been partially caused by double counting. On one hand, commercial banks' exchange deposits in foreign currencies, and on the other 35 per cent of the foreign currency deposits in the commercial banks are being deposited with the Central Bank. Is it possible that the same dollars were counted twice, while the liabilities in foreign exchange, of the Central Bank were not brought into the picture because they belong to residents.

In general, the preliminary figures of the balance of payments were not sufficiently convincing. They need full explanation on the uses and methods of compilation, especially when it comes to the changes in the outstanding

value of assets and liabilities of both the government and the banking sector.

Until then, the official balance of payments for 1989 could not be safely used as an economic policy and decision making tool in 1990, otherwise the economic adjustment programme will be rendered obsolete.

Since the purpose of the balance of payments is to summarise the country's transactions with the outside world, we wish that the Central Bank would prepare another balance of payments, expressed in dollars. This will avoid the problem of revaluation of foreign assets and liabilities, and the distortion that must arise from the comparison of values calculated in different exchange rates, especially when the difference is in the order of 77 per cent, resulting from an effective devaluation of the JD by 44 per cent. It is quite a paradox to say correctly that Jordan's imports declined by 12 per cent in dollar terms while the balance of payments claims that imports rose by 19 per cent in JDs.

CBI officials confirmed that there was no double counting of foreign assets, and admitted that no revaluation of external indebtedness has taken place. They also stated that capitalised interest of around \$700 million was not accounted for in the balance of payments,

because it was compiled on cash basis and real transactions, while the capitalisation of interest was performed on paper only, therefore it was not reflected in the current account under investment returns. Had the Central Bank dealt with capitalisation of interest as a fresh loan from lenders to finance the payment of due interest, the surplus in the current account would have been converted to a deficit of JD 177 million.

The Jordanian balance of payments in dollars, prepared by the experts of the IMF did just that. They ended up with a bottom line of \$60 million in deficit in 1989. After all, why the revaluation and adjustment programme if Jordan has really become a surplus country?

Kenya gripped by 4 ex-ministers cited in corruption findings

By Didrikke Schanche
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — The winds of democracy blowing from Eastern Europe have reached Kenya, setting off bloody street battles in what has been considered the most stable nation of black Africa.

Several political explosions have rocked Africa south of the Sahara this year. Mass demands for reform have shaken other one-party governments in Ivory Coast, Gabon, Zambia, Cameroon, Zaire and Benin.

Analysts say the protests reflect awareness that one-party rule was swept aside in Eastern Europe last year and the weariness of Africans with leadership that often is authoritarian and corrupt.

In Kenya, at least 28 people were killed in riots that began at a banned rally for multiparty politics July 7. The demonstrators stoned a plainclothes policeman and police responded with tear gas and gunfire, starting four days of street battles that spread to other parts of the country.

Multiparty democracy "is an international catchword which has been adopted by all those who have a grievance against the government," said a Western diplomat based in Nairobi.

"They may not know what it means, but they know that they are unhappy and that what they've got hasn't worked," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition he not be identified further.

Rising food prices, skyrocketing debt, swelling populations and steady economic decline have added fuel to the political fires. In Zambia, a failed coup on July 1 followed five days of the worst urban violence in the nation's history. At least 23 people were killed in student riots over food price increases.

The students also demanded Western-style democracy and the ouster of President Kenneth Kaunda, who leads the United National Independence Party, since 1972 the only legal political movement in the Southern African country.

Protests of austerity measures and corruption in Ivory Coast in March grew into violent anti-government demonstrations demanding an end to the 30-year reign of President Felix Houphouët-Boigny.

He was forced to legalise political organisations other than his own Democratic Party.

President Omar Bongo of Gabon installed a multiparty system in May after a coup attempt late last year and student protests in January and February. France sent troops to protect oil workers when more riots broke out in May.

Benin dropped a Marxist-Leninist style of government late last year and adopted political pluralism.

Paul Biya, Cameroon's president, came to power in 1983 promising more democracy, but his government has cracked down on advocates of pluralism since February.

Six people were killed at a pro-democracy rally and authorities arrested 10 prominent

citizens who tried to form an alternative party to his Democratic Rally of the Cameroon's People.

Kenya's president, Daniel Arap Moi, appears to be following the Cameroonian model.

His government has arrested and charged more than 1,400 people in connection with the riots and threatens continued use of force against pro-democracy demonstrators. Seventeen people have been detained without charge, including the most prominent advocates of multiparty politics.

Moi, who has governed Kenya since 1978, contends political pluralism would result in tribal-based parties, ethnic divisions and even warfare among Kenya's approximately 40 tribes.

A constitutional amendment in 1982 declared Kenya African National Union the only legal political organisation, formalising a situation that had existed since the last opposition party was banned in 1969.

This year, a loose alliance of politicians, lawyers and church leaders began demanding reform on grounds the one-party system had led to corruption, election rigging and increasingly authoritarian rule.

Signs of economic distress accompany the pressure for reform.

Kenya has experienced steady growth since independence in 1963, but recent gains have been connected to foreign aid, now almost one-third of the budget, and tourism, sure to be slowed by the turmoil.

In recent years, Kenya's 23 million people have been squeezed by double-digit inflation and stagnant incomes. Prices of such basic commodities as flour and sugar have risen under economic restructuring plans of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Economic growth in 1989 was put at 5 per cent, but population growth was nearly 4 per cent, one of the world's highest rates.

In a pastoral letter last month, Roman Catholic bishops lamented a widening gap between rich and poor. Summing up what they called ethical questions of justice and human rights, the bishops said:

"What has emerged clearly from the public debate on the political system is a general agreement that the present structures have weaknesses that need to be set right."

The Organisation of African Unity addressed similar issues at its annual meeting last week in Addis Ababa, capital Ethiopia, noting that fundamental changes were occurring in Africa and the world, the member nations pledged in a final communiqué to "recommit ourselves to the full democratisation of our societies."

Moi was not present for the declaration. He left the meeting on its first day to return to Kenya, where police battled with those calling for change.

He blamed the violence on "hooligans and drug addicts."

(Continued from page 1)

letter sent by prosecutor-general Mohammed Sami to Minister of Justice Yusuf Mbeidien, a former ministry of supply under-secretary has been indicted of "exploiting public office" in a case involving a shipment of rice. The former official is under trial, according to legal sources.

The prosecutor-general, in the same letter, also reported that he could not find any case after investigations into the Jebel Marra movement park. "The investigating team, headed by Mohammed Ajameh, found that there is no evidence that a crime was committed by any person and therefore the case is closed," the letter said.

It was not immediately known whether deputies would press for fresh investigations into the case. But a deputy, who is a member of the House's Legal Committee, said that the chamber had no intention of looking into cases which the prosecutor-general has cleared.

However, heated debates characterised Saturday's House session. Deputy Leth Shabail called for amendments to the constitution to remove the immunity granted to ministers against trial by regular courts. Shabail, an independent Islamist deputy from Amman, said Parliament was not equipped to carry out investigation and this "responsibility should be shouldered by the government."

Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Abdul Latif Arabiyah, a House (Self) deputy, supported Shabail's argument. "Nobody should be immune, particularly decision-makers," he told the House.

Irbid Deputy Salim Zou'bi (independent) agreed with Shabail but said "we have a task to perform

according to the constitution."

Abdullah Zuhair, a deputy from Karak, charged that "corruption is still at its peak in the country" and called on the government to "choose competent officials" to run its affairs.

Jamal Khariche, a central bedouin deputy, said that "corruption in Jordan is on the lips of everyone, even those outside the country." He suggested that Parliament accelerate investigations with a view to putting an end to the issue once and for all.

Bassam Haddadin, a leftist deputy from Zarqa, accused the government of being "negatively neutral" in its approach towards investigating corruption. "Since the government has all the documents and files, it should conduct the investigations rather than Parliament," he said.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran

countered by arguing that the term "negatively neutral" was of no meaning since the House was the party to initiate investigations into corruption and the government had cooperated by providing all documents in its possession. He emphasised that the investigation was "not political."

Hussein Mjall, a Jerash deputy and a veteran lawyer who heads the legal committee of the House, intervened to say that "we are not here to distinguish between authorities."

"The cases were referred to us by the prosecutor-general and the least at hand is to complete the investigations," he said.

With intervention from Speaker Saleiman Arar, the House then moved on to discussing the formation of the committee entrusted with studying the cases.

The committee was subsequently elected. It comprises Abdullah Akalyeh (Muslim Brotherhood), Taffah Abdullah Esmar (National Bloc, Self), Hussein Mjall (independent), Saleem Zuhair (independent), Mohammed Abu Fares Muslim Brotherhood, Amman), Leth Shabail (independent Islamist) and Ahmad Azzeih (Muslim Brotherhood, Madaba).

Any committee recommendation to refer the cases for trial by the special court should have a two-third majority endorsement in the House.

The three cases referred to the committee were out of nine sent for investigations to the prosecutor-general in April. There was no indication Saturday when the rest of the cases will be formally presented to the House.

Arabs step up Gulf mediation

(Continued from page 1)

Kuwait, in a memorandum to the Arab League, counter-accused Iraq of encroaching on its territory and stealing its oil.

The Iraqi paper Al Qadisiya said: "It is surprising that Kuwait claims that Iraq has violated Kuwaiti territory while Kuwait knows very well that Iraq was busy with the war and its armed forces were posted on the battlefronts."

It said no Iraqi soldiers were deployed on the border with Kuwait during the conflict and "we can only come to the conclusion that the alleged Iraqi violations are only in Kuwait's imagination."

"We would like to emphasise that the Kuwaiti oilfield is 100 per cent Iraqi and Kuwait's utilisation of these

fields are violations and encroachments on Iraq's rights... on which we cannot keep silent," it said.

The desert field, believed to contain reserves equivalent to more than 20 billion barrels of oil, lies mainly in Iraq. But it extends a few kilometres into Kuwait.

The problem is that the 160-kilometre border has never been demarcated since Kuwait gained independence from Britain in 1961. Kuwait claims Iraq has refused to demarcate to clarify the frontier.

Iraq's Information Ministry banned all Kuwaiti newspapers and magazines Saturday for the third straight day for "carrying anti-Iraqi material."

The UAE government made its first public comment on the Iraqi allegations Friday in a memorandum

to the Arab League in which it rejected Iraqi allegations.

"Arab differences must be resolved in a brotherly spirit of wisdom and mutual respect," it said.

The UAE's newspapers, which for two days had been ordered by the government to keep coverage of the crisis to a bare minimum, Saturday defended the government against the Iraqi allegations.

Despite the tension, the Kuwaiti press maintained a low-key approach to the row.

A Qabas emphasised what it said were the historic ties between Kuwait and Iraq and called for negotiations.

Al Sinyasah daily mixed conciliatory and assertive language, saying Kuwait would never yield to threats and blackmail.

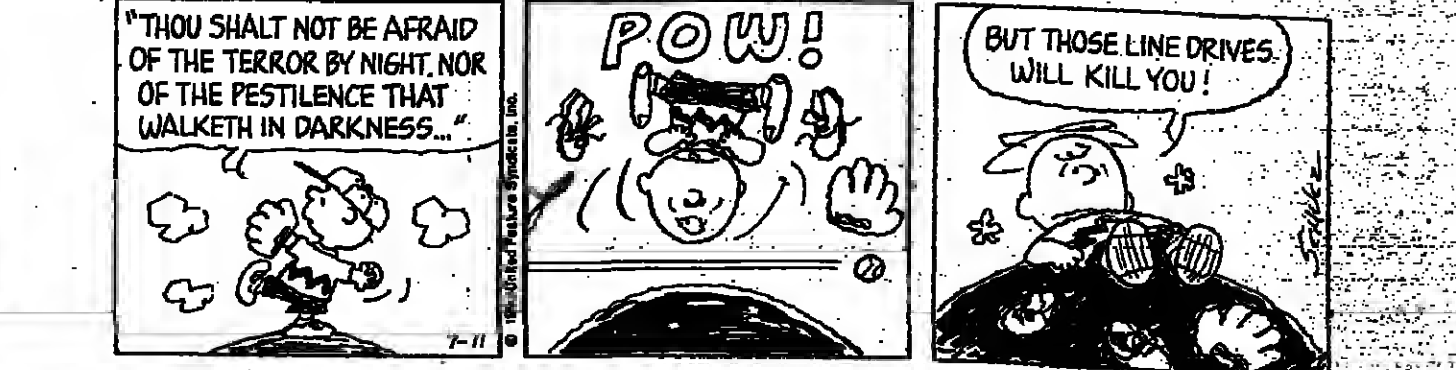
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Cures could be in the making for Jordan's health spa

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hopes have been kindled that new formulas could be worked out to cure the financial ailments of Jordan's first health spa complex with changes at the helm of the company heralded by net losses compounded by running management conflicts over the facility's operations.

The decision last week of the Ministry of Industry and Trade to dissolve the board of directors of the Jordan Tourism and Spa Complex Company (JTSCC) and appoint an ad hoc committee in its place for the next year was widely welcomed by most business circles as well as officials who are optimistic that fundamental changes could be brought about to improve the situation of the Ma'in Health Spa.

"The committee is made up of mostly technocrats with business orientation," commented an economic analyst. "This should help improve the

operations of the spa very much."

One of the main problems of the JD 14 million facility, the sole project of the JTSCC, is low occupancy. While feasibility studies indicated 60 to 70 per cent occupancy rates, the actual situation, after one and half years of full operation, is around 40 per cent, according to Ishaq Al Ayed, general manager of the company. "It is too low for any hotel," Ayed told the Jordan Times.

According to Ayed, who assumed the job about one month ago, "there is a lot of room for improvement in facilities, services and marketing of the spa."

The final accounts of the spa are under auditing by Shaer and Company and no accurate figures on the profit or loss could be obtained. But Ramzi Nazzal of Middle East Tourism Service and Management Company (METMA), the firm which operates the spa under a management contract, said the "gross operational profits" during 1989 amounted to JD 200,000. This figure could not be independently verified.

"We hope to improve the situation as we go along and that the hotel will be self-sufficient soon," Nazzal told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview. Under the management contract, valid for seven years, METMA collects nine per cent of the gross operational profits and two per cent of the gross revenue.

Nazzal said he did not expect any adverse impact on the

management contract by the change in the board of directors of the owner company.

Basing their calculations on a gross profit figure of JD 200,000, informed hotel industry circles said the net loss of the owners of the project could be in the region of JD 60,000 to JD 70,000 for the year 1989, after providing for loan servicing, depreciation and other related accounts.

The spa employs 174 people, including regular hotel staff and experts in various health specialisations, and five people, including the general manager, are employed at the owner company.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade was exercising a right as provided for in the Companies Act when it dissolved the board of directors of the JTSCC. Government agencies such as the Social Security Corporation, the Postal Savings Fund and the Pension Fund, whose funds are invested through the Jordan Investment Corporation, own 72.9 per cent of the JD 5 million equity of the company, the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) and the Housing Bank own eight per cent and the rest is floated in the Amman Financial Market.

The JD 1 par value shares of the company were last quoted at the stock exchange at 800 fils, but an economist expected it to rise as the "dust settles down and things are clarified at the Ma'in spa."

According to Ayed and several investment consultants, the problem with the complex can be directly attributed to the relatively new concept of a health spa in an Arab country. "It is a trial and error process," said a consultant. "As years pass by, one learns from past mistakes and corrects them. But the question here is different simply because the amount involved is too high."

Another consultant was a little sceptical. "There are many in the Arab World who would gladly travel to health spas in Europe spending a lot of money, but will raise eyebrows at the notion of a 'health spa' in an Arab country."

It was indeed the regular flow of people to the hot springs at Ma'in, near Madaba, that gave birth to the idea of developing the area into a health spa. But, said an analyst, "what appeared to have been overlooked in the bargain is that a majority of those people who used to frequent the springs is not from that class which can afford even two-star hotels."

After feasibility established that there was good potential for health tourism at the Ma'in springs, the owner company awarded the building contract to Hebtar, a local firm, at a cost of JD 8.604 million, with an additional provision of JD 1.035 for furnishings. Construction began in 1982, but the process was delayed for several years and by the time of completion in late 1987, a total of around JD 14 million had gone into it.

A claim by the contractor and a counter-claim by the owners are now before the mayor of Greater Amman Municipality whose ruling will be accepted by both parties by agreement. The exact amounts involved are not known, but an informed official said: "It is pretty high."

Ayed is confident that the facility could yield very good results if a comprehensive strategy is drawn up and applied "with complete understanding and harmony between the management company and the owners."

"There is a lot of potential in the Gulf region but it needs a better approach, better facilities, better services and better marketing," Ayed said. "But above everything, there should be clear understanding between the two parties."

Ayed, who has an impressive background in travel and tourism in Europe with airlines, including Royal Jordanian, declined to get into any detailed review. But informed sources confirmed that working relations between the former board of directors and the management company were not exactly harmonious.

This was also affirmed by Nazzal of METMA. "Now we hope that we do not have to get the approval of the board everytime we plan to appoint someone," he told the Jordan Times. The management contract stipulates that the owners should approve all appointments to executive positions at the spa, which is in essence a hotel complex but offering natural cure for several ailments.

The ministry's decision to dissolve the 11-member board of directors, which was appointed on Jan. 22, 1990, came after its chairman and some of its members requested it, according to an official who requested anonymity. "They tried their best to strike a balance, but there were recurring problems with the management company. At a certain point in time, they decided

they could no longer do it, and approached the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Trade and Industry with a request that they be relieved of the responsibility," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mohammad Saeed Abu Nowar, now the ex-chairman, declined to make any comment on the issue and referred all questions to the new six-member ad hoc committee, which is entrusted with running the company and studying its situation before presenting recommended proposals at the end of one year. The committee is headed by former Minister of Trade and Industry Ziad Annab and includes representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the IDB and the Ministry of Tourism. Only one member of the previous board has found his way to the committee.

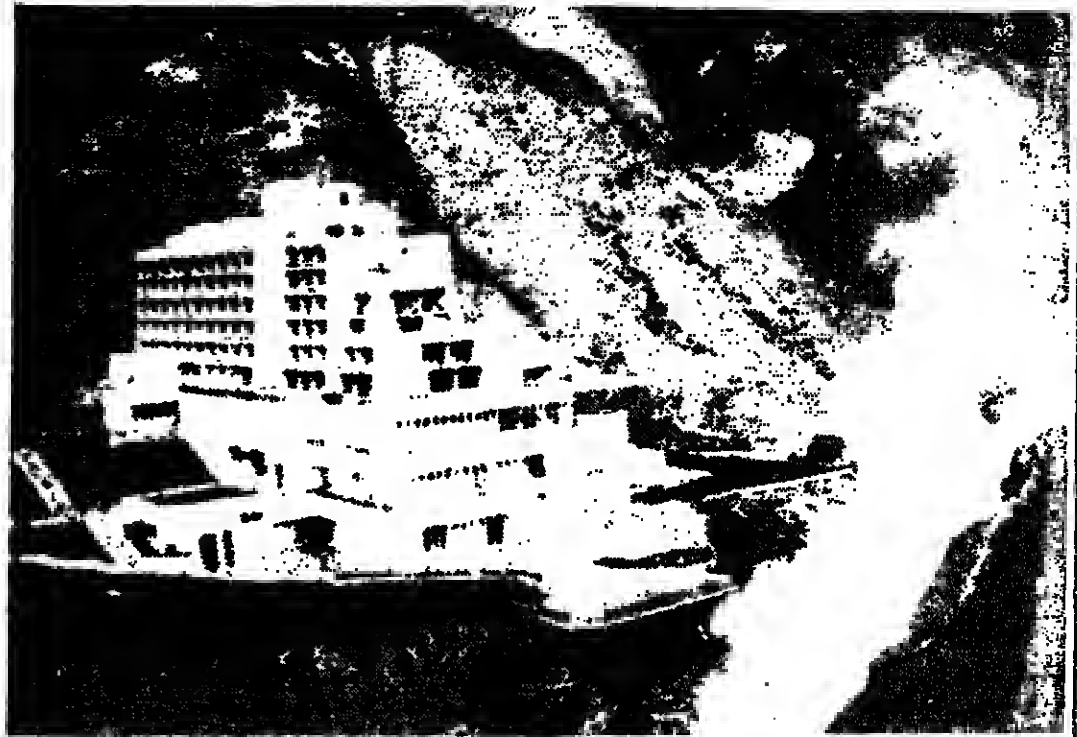
Ayed believes that a road linking the spa to the Dead Sea, some five kilometres down, will boost the facilities' business. "There is already a resthouse down there," he pointed out. "We could market the spa and the resthouse as a package."

The Ministry of Public Works has promised that it will construct such an access road if it finds budget allocations after finishing its ongoing project of building a new road between Naour and the Dead Sea.

"A diet health farm is also a good idea," said Ayed adding that he was going to propose his ideas to the ad hoc committee appointed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The spa complex was hit by problems between the owners and the building contractor from the very beginning. When the project finally opened its doors in early 1988, after fighting off all "man-made problems and managed to get things ready," a natural calamity struck, said a source close to the affair. A side of the mountain near the complex came down and blocked the road leading to the facility. It took another nine months and JD 100,000 to clear the area and reopen the spa, according to the source. Finally, the complex was formally declared open on Jan. 1, 1989.

The project was one of dozens of cases of possible corruption raised in the Lower House of Parliament during a secret session in March this year, according to informed sources. But "no case file has yet been sent for investigation," said a legal source. According to parliamentary sources, one of the questions raised was how such a high-cost venture was built in an area prone to landslides. According to geophysical experts, chances of a recurrence of another landslide in the area are slim.



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Badran: Petra Bank case delaying martial law abolition

(Continued from page 1)

be implemented."

"But their success requires your support and cooperation and backing from the private and public sectors," he told the House.

Badran also hit back at critics, whom he did not name, for "slandering" against the government. He said the government welcomed constructive criticism but would not accept slander or criticism for criticism's sake.

Following are major excerpts from the prime minister's address:

The government has listened and fully grasped the speeches of the honorable gentlemen about the unemployment problem in Jordan. The government shares with them the view over most of the points that were raised in their speeches and remarks and recommendations, specially those in harmony with the government's strategy as presented by the minister of labour.

I would like to point out a number of points to which the government had earlier referred on previous occasions to satisfy the remarks presented by a number of speakers on the one hand and in view to its relevance to the discussion on the other.

One: Unemployment is a social economic phenomenon. The government finds it important to reiterate that the phenomenon — in view of its economic and social nature — can by no means be solved by a ready-made prescription or by a set of administrative resolutions; nor can it be solved by temporary solutions to ease the pain a little and leave the disease to become chronic. A period of five months of life should never serve as criteria for the government to measure its accomplishments in dealing with unemployment — a problem which began aggravating since the mid-1980s.

Civil Service Commission (CSC) figures reveal that applications for jobs in government offices were as follows:

The rounded balance for 1990 is 44,000 applications.

This important issue will be dealt with through a set of policies and programmes adopted by this government and which are being implemented now. But they require Parliament support and backing from the private and public sectors to ensure success over a sufficient period of time so that the economic structure can create more job opportunities and absorb more job seekers.

Five months is not sufficient for the government by any standard to deal with the unemployment issue and to find effective solutions. We have never heard of any nation in the world plagued by economic recession like that of Jordan and with a shaky confidence in the national economy in addition to unstable currency exchange rates and unemployment that has succeeded in ending all its in five months or a year or 20 years.

What the government has achieved in this short period is represented in the stable currency exchange rate, the launching of an economic restructuring programme, reduction of the deficit in the fiscal budget and the restoration of confidence in the national economy.

This is sound policy which can lead to a solution for the unemployment problem.

Two: Organising the labour market. The government is keen on substituting non-Jordanians with local workers. The reorganisation of the labour market is one of the main policies required to deal with the question of unemployment and this policy has started to yield fruit.

The government inherited this heavy responsibility under very difficult circumstances known to everybody and succeeded in a record period of time to place things in their right perspective.

The government has succeeded in employing 6,750 or 48 per cent of the total number of job seekers in the past six months. This should be regarded as an achievement and a genuine indicator of its diligence and dedication.

The government is anxious to attain a balance between the employment of non-Jordanians for certain jobs and giving priority to work to local people without creating any bottlenecks or difficulties for production. This question can not be handled by administrative decisions and measures. But the government is determined to gradually substitute non-Jordanians with local workers as was clear in the minister of labour's speech.

Third: Personnel manning table. This table is not a routine procedure but a true reflection of the government's administrative and financial policies. Parliament has endorsed the government's annual budget, which does not provide for any new vacancies and therefore the application of the table does not help solve the unemployment problem.

The government can by no means solve the unemployment problem without an efficient administrative system. It should be noted that inflating the administrative system with more staff can only obstruct work and create what is called masked unemployment. Many countries fell in this pitfall without finding a solution to the real problem.

This government does not seek popularity by creating 20,000 jobs all of a sudden because it is committed to its national policies and can by no means win popularity and support at the expense of the national interest.

Fourth: The development and employment fund. This fund is being created to provide funds for technical guidance to enable groups and individuals to engineer production schemes and income-generating projects. The government has gone a long way to create such a fund in cooperation with the World Bank.

This fund will operate as an independent institution to deal with the question of employment and poverty by providing loans for schemes.

It will cooperate with the voluntary societies, which will in turn offer grants to the needy to start enterprises. So far a JD 7 million capital has been raised for the fund, collected from foreign aid to Jordan, but the government is conducting negotiations with the World Bank to ensure further funds.

Fifth: Social development institutions. Social development institutions play an effective role in carrying out small-scale projects. Over the past six months these institutions initiated 137 vocational training projects for needy families in agriculture and stock farming. They offered financial assistance to 1,683 families, carried out 67 rehabilitation schemes, set up rehabilitation centres for girls in Irbid and in Tafleh, established 30 new charitable

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We organise the labour market here encouraging Jordanians to work abroad and opening Jordan for limited numbers of non-Arabs to work here in the light of the national needs.

The government, after hearing the deputies' speeches, will now embark on studying various views and proposals and try to implement and apply as many of them as possible in a manner which serves public interest.

This government is committed to its policy statement. It realises the course it is following and is laying down policies and defining its procedures in all fields with awareness and accuracy under very difficult conditions.

The government appreciates those who helped it in its sound actions by pointing out real failures but to those who merely seek to slander and defame the government I can only say that I do not take it upon myself to step down to a lower level and get involved in counter moves.

This government is true to its responsibilities and is committed to carry out its duties before the King and the people and realises the voices of hatred and malice and the voices of those who try to instigate the masses to turn against their homeland and its stability.

Jordan is a steadfast country, which can endure starvation and harm and it can by no means be daunted nor will it ever abandon its determination and its resolve to follow its sound course and be diverted from its course by poisoned words designed to sow dissension.

This government will continue to spread an atmosphere of confidence in the national economy and will pursue a stable investment policy. It will not open side battles that can only shake confidence and weaken stability and only deals with facts and realities and work with diligence and perseverance to implement the directives of the royal letter of designation and in true commitment to its policy statement presented to parliament.

This government does not condone sin, nor can it accept any defamation of reputation and any stabbing in the back.

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France to overhaul embassy security after Beirut scandal

PARIS (R) — France embarked on a complete overhaul of security at its embassies after the discovery of an arms smuggling ring at its mission in Beirut.

Members of the elite force of policemen protecting the embassy and French diplomats in Lebanon are suspected of buying cut-price weapons from militia contacts and supplying them to France's criminal underworld.

The current head of the French "rangers" was questioned by a magistrate Friday after he was flown home from Beirut. Two of his former subordinates were charged with arms trafficking earlier this week.

Interior Minister Pierre Joxe said in a radio interview he would be "pitiless" with men found guilty and described the scandal as a heavy blow to the image of the French police.

Joxe, who is responsible for the country's 120,000-strong police force, has opened an inquiry headed by one of his top officials, Jean Marc Erbes.

"The security system at diplomatic missions will have to be reviewed from top to bottom. The Beirut affair has uncovered some serious lapses," Erbes told the daily Le Figaro in an interview.

The Foreign Ministry, deeply embarrassed by the lucrative five-year trade in everything from rocket launchers to assault rifles, has launched its own inquiry.

The ministry's spokesman said Friday that Rene Ala, the French ambassador in Beirut, would conduct the probe with "all the necessary speed and vigour."

Contrary to earlier statements by investigators, none of the paramilitary gendarmes who have served in Beirut has been detained for questioning.

All the suspects are policemen, mainly drawn from the fearsome CRS anti-riot units.

Although French government officials have refused to comment in detail on the affair, retreating for once behind much-abused

rules on the rights of suspects, the public prosecutor in Marseille was less coy Thursday.

Olivier Droplet said the head of the Beirut hodyguards, CRS Sergeant Jean-Claude Labourdette, was the likely mastermind behind the traffic.

Despite Droplet's statements at a news conference, Labourdette had still not been formally charged Friday by the magistrate leading the investigation.

Labourdette, who has served a record five years in the world's most dangerous city, was shown in television footage and archive photographs.

KAROLINE

Al Hayyat

الحياة

Al Hayyat

the healthy refreshing drink, from Karoline

Year	Number of applications	Appointed
1985	23,854	5,771 (24%)
1986	30,757	7,236 (24%)
1987	40,803	10,280 (25%)
1988	45,988	6,947 (15%)
1989	48,371	4,675 (10%)

Barrowman gets Goodwill Games started with swimming record

SEATTLE, Washington (Agencies) — Mike Barrowman helped to launch the Goodwill Games in style by smashing his own world record in the 200 metres breaststroke on the opening day of the 17-day sporting extravaganza.

The furious pace pulled two other swimmers to times under Barrowman's previous record and the American raised his arms and howled in delight when he saw his time on the clock.

The swimmers were the first to collect medals in the 21-sport spectacle that involves some 2,500 athletes from nearly 50 countries.

Soviet gymnasts scooped up the gold offered in the men's team competition ahead of the United States and China as the games built up momentum heading into a busy opening weekend.

But Barrowman's blazing breaststroke victory was the opening day's highlight. The American touched in two minutes 11.53 seconds to slash 1.36 seconds off his old mark of 2:12.89.

Seoul Olympic bronze medalist Sergio Lopez of Spain and American Kirk Stickle finished in a dead heat at 2:12.24 and were each given a silver medal.

"I expected it, I was dreaming

of 2:11.5," Barrowman said, still beaming after his triumph.

Olympic champions Matt Biondi and Janet Evans were among other American winners while backstrokers Martin Zuber of Spain and Hungarian Krisztina Egervari prevented a U.S. sweep.

The Soviet victory in the gymnastics was expected but the surprise of the competition was the American silver medal.

Chris Waller, who needed heart surgery six years ago to correct a constricted aorta, produced a dazzling pommel horse routine to help the Americans clinch second place.

"We intimidated them on high bar," U.S. coach Ed Burch said after the meet.

The strong performance on the high bar, including a 9.9 by 19-year-old Trent Dimas in the third rotation, put the Americans into second place ahead of the Chinese.

"This is an important step for us, especially since next year... we'll be hosting the world championships," Burch said.

"We'll catch them in two years," said Dimas.

Asked if the Soviets performed as well as they expected, coach Leonid Arkaev said: "We don't care too much about the difference in scores, we just wanted to win."

The team event included four competitors from each nation in-

stead of the usual six. Only the three biggest scores were counted.

Burch admitted that the United States could have a more difficult time with a six-man format.

"We don't have the depth that the Soviets do," he said.

"The top 16 finishers from the team competition, with no more than two athletes from each nation, qualified for the individual all-around competition Saturday.

China overcame a slow start Friday to beat Peru in women's volleyball, as competition began with a rematch of a 1988 Olympic medal game.

The Chinese women, who won the bronze in Seoul, beat silver medalist Peru 15-5, 7-15, 15-13, 15-7.

The Soviets, who won the gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, faced the United States women in a later match.

"Seoul was a big game. This was for friendship, so we were not so nervous," Chinese player Li Guojun said through an interpreter. "This game was not as tough, but we both could have played better."

Few of the athletes from the teams' 1988 Olympic squads competed in the 6,216-seat Spokane Coliseum.

the French Open, hasn't lost a set in three matches, but faced set point five times during a 1-hour, 3-minute first set against the 7th-seeded Reneberg.

Serving with Reneberg up 6-5, Agassi clawed through 22 points, recovering from 15-40 with a service winner and using a backhand volley to get the first of nine deuces in the game.

Reneberg, ranked 39th in the world, had two more chances for the break, but Agassi recovered and finally shot a forehand pass deep inside the baseline to make it 6-6. They stayed even through the tiebreaker until Reneberg hit a backhand volley long to make it 5-4 and Agassi served out the set.

Agassi carried the momentum into the second set, breaking Reneberg immediately and two more times before finishing the set off in 30 minutes.

Gilbert's victory over Stich, meanwhile, made it an all-American semifinal.

Gilbert, continuing the hot play that had him in the finals and the quarterfinals of his last two tournaments, gave up only three points on his serve in the first set on the way to beating the unseeded Stich.

Andre Agassi

Agassi, Chang advance to semifinals in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi fought off five set points in the first set and overpowered Richey Reneberg 7-6, 6-0 Friday night and Michael Chang beat Todd Witsken 6-3, 6-4 to move into the semifinals of the Sovran Bank Classic.

Chang's victory gave the 1989 French Open champion his best tournament showing this year and a rematch against Agassi, who beat Chang in the French quarterfinals in May.

No. 2 seed Brad Gilbert, a finalist here in 1987 and 1989, didn't lose his serve in ousting West Germany's Michael Stich 6-3, 6-4.

Sixth-seeded Jim Grabb will play Gilbert in the other semifinal after his 6-4, 6-3 victory over Derrick Rostagno, the man who duplicated his Wimbledon upset by ousting John McEnroe in the third round.

Chang, seeded fifth, stayed on the baseline against the bigger Witsken, taking 2 hours, 2 minutes to beat the 14th seed. He took the first set with strong forehands that kept Witsken away from the net.

Agassi, competing for the first time since his runner-up finish in

the French Open, hasn't lost a set in three matches, but faced set point five times during a 1-hour, 3-minute first set against the 7th-seeded Reneberg.

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Sanchez earns first million the hard way

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain became a millionaire with a hard-fought win over unseeded American Meredith McGrath in the Virginia Slims of Newport tennis tournament.



Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (7-3) despite connecting on only 46 per cent of her first serves.

Sanchez, ranked seventh in the world, overcame a 5-2 deficit in the second set to eliminate McGrath 6-4, 7-5 and earn a spot in the semifinals.

Sanchez, 18, entered the tournament with \$996,631 in earnings and is now guaranteed to make at least \$10,000 this weekend at the historic Newport Casino, home of the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

In the semifinals she will meet fifth-seeded Gretchen Magers of the United States who defeated Australian Louise Field 6-0, 7-6

head left dazed Whittaker, sending him staggering backward with his hands at his sides.

Earlier in the round, Tiozzo sent a tiring Whittaker to his knees for a four-count with a left hook. The American appeared disoriented but got on his feet, only too face a flurry of punches.

Tiozzo retains boxing title

ARLES, France (AP) — Christophe Tiozzo of France outpunched American Paul Whittaker to defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) super-middleweight title Friday night with a technical knockout.

Referee Julio Cesar Alvarado stopped the fight midway into the eighth round after a crushing over-

head left dazed Whittaker, sending him staggering backward with his hands at his sides.

Earlier in the round, Tiozzo sent a tiring Whittaker to his knees for a four-count with a left hook. The American appeared disoriented but got on his feet, only too face a flurry of punches.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠5 ♠963 ♠AK9852 ♠KJ6
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with a weak two-heart bid. What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK63 ♠87 ♠1043 ♠A984
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♥
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠5 ♠963 ♠AK9852 ♠KJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♥
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK63 ♠87 ♠1043 ♠A984
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♥
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ4 ♠Q5 ♠832 ♠105432
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1NT Pass
2♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A983 ♠J4 ♠A93 ♠K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
1NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Britain's Backley sets world javelin record

LONDON (AP) — Javelin thrower Steve Backley reckoned his rival had borrowed the world record from him.

So, to get it back, he borrowed his rival's javelin.

The 21-year-old Briton threw the Nemeth javelin that Czechoslovak Jan Zeleny had used to set the world mark and hurled it 90.98 metres, more than a metres longer than the record.

"I picked up the Nemeth because everyone else was using it," Backley said. "I always said I had borrowed the record from me. I knew I would get it back and it was great to do it here in front of all the British fans."

When Backley and Zeleny met head to head in an International Amateur Athletic Federation Grand Prix meet at Crystal Palace Friday, the world mark was less than a week old.

At the Bissett games in Oslo, Zeleny bettered Backley's world mark by 8 centimetres, lifting the record to 89.66 metres with the Nemeth. The Briton was there to witness it.

But the Czechoslovak barely had time to take the wrapping off his world record before Backley snatched it back Friday with the first 90-metre throw using the safer type of javelin introduced

by world track chiefs six years ago.

Backley, who usually uses a Sanvik javelin, previously was unimpressed with the Nemeth, which is rated aerodynamically better.

Even his Sanvik throws went further than anything Zeleny could muster on a warm, balmy night in southern London.

Backley started with 86.40 metres, followed it with 85.88, again with the Sanvik. His first throw with Zeleny's Nemeth flew 89.20, just short of the world mark. And his final throw of 90.98 seemed to hang in the air for several breathtaking seconds before it hit the ground the other side of the world record mark.

Zeleny's best throw was 85.34 metres.

"This is like a dream come true," Backley said. "The 90-metre barrier has been there too long. It has always been my aim."

Backley's world record throw earned him an \$18,000 bonus, paid by British track chiefs, because it was accomplished on a home track.

And it capped a trio of impressive home performances by sprint stars Linford Christie, Jon Regis and Colin Jackson, and a Kenyan 1-2-3 in the 300 metres.

Lemond leads in final stage of Tour de France

LAC DE VASSIVIERE, France (R) — Defending champion Greg Lemond took the Tour de France leader's yellow jersey for the first time in a race against the clock Saturday, virtually sealing victory before Sunday's final stage.

The American, who has been trailing surprise leader Claudio Chiappucci of Italy by a five-second margin for the past three days, finally came to the fore as expected in the 45.5-kilometre individual time trial 20th stage.

He clocked one hour three minutes 37 seconds to record a crushing victory over his Italian rival by two minutes 21 seconds and take a comfortable looking lead into the final stage.

Lemond, who finished fifth in the time trial in one hour two minutes 40 seconds by Eric Breukink of the Netherlands, had lost more than 10 minutes to the Italian after a freak breakaway in the first stage of the three-week race.

Barring accidents, Lemond looks certain to win his third Tour de France title on the Champs Elysees in Paris Sunday at the end of a flat 182.5-kilometre ride from Breigny-Sur-Orge which gives the Italian little chance of making up lost time.

It was the second year in succession that Lemond swung the

destiny of the title in the final, decisive time trial.

He overturned a 50-second deficit last year to beat Laurent Fignon of France by eight seconds, the smallest winning margin in the history of the tour.

Lemond, a master of the art of racing against the clock, effectively grabbed the overall lead in the first 10-kilometres of the time trial around the Lac de Vassiviere.

He opened an 11-second margin over Chiappucci at the first intermediate time at 10.2 kilometres and steadily extended it.

The plucky Italian held on bravely until well past the half-way stage but began to tire badly towards the end of a bumpy and relatively demanding course on a day in which excessive heat sapped at his strength.

At 33 kilometres, he was just over one minute down and he lost almost 80 seconds more on the last 12 kilometres as Lemond sped away from him.

The American, using the triathlete's handlebar loop which gave him the crucial aerodynamic advantage over Fignon last year, started second to last in the time trial, three minutes before Chiappucci.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Algeria wins African Judo title

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria captured the 12th African Judo Team Championship Friday night by beating Angola 7-0. The Algerians took an early lead in the 12-nation championship which began on July 15, winning the crowd for individuals last Wednesday in both women's and men's categories. Senegal and Tunisia took third and fourth places, respectively, in the team championship. Algeria topped the overall medals table with a total of 16 for both men and women, followed by Tunisia (11), Senegal (10), Morocco (10) and defending team champions Egypt (nine).

Bubka hopes to defend European title

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — Injured Soviet pole vaulter world record holder Sergei Bubka has said he would not compete in the Goodwill Games next week because of back problems but hoped to defend his European championship next month. "Because of this injury all of this season for me went upside down," Bubka, who has been battling the injury since May, told reporters at a hastily called news conference. Bubka said he hoped to return to competition next month and would use the Zurich Grand Prix meeting on Aug. 15 as a springboard for the European championships starting on Aug. 27 in Split, Yugoslavia. The 26-year-old Ukrainian denied there was a major rift between him and the Soviet federation but admitted they had "routine" differences. He skipped the Soviet championships earlier this month, then competed in meetings in Nice and Barcelona where he did poorly because of the injury.

Denver re-signs Davis

DENVER (AP) — Walter Davis has signed a two-year contract with the Denver Nuggets, despite a personal plea by Michael Jordan for Davis to help the Chicago Bulls win a National Basketball Association Championship. "He called me three or four times lately. He wanted me to play on his team real bad," Davis said Thursday. "And it was very tempting to play alongside Michael Jordan and get a chance to win a championship." But Davis, 35, a 13-year veteran, chose to remain in Denver because he has a daughter about to enter grade school and a wife who has fallen in love with the Rocky Mountains, he said. Davis initially signed the 6-foot-6 (1.98-metre) Davis as a free agent in 1988 after he spent the first 11 years of his career with Phoenix. Davis was scored 18,140 points during his career, making him the 30th-leading scorer in NBA history.

Garrone advances to Estoril final

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — Italian Laura Garrone and Federica Bonsignori dispatched their semifinal opponents Friday, with bursts of Latin brio to earn berths in the finals of the \$100,000 Estoril Open. Garrone overpowered Argentine Patricia Tarabini 6-2, 6-2 in an effortless one-hour match at the Caravelos Club. Bonsignori had a tougher fight against third-seeded Sabine Hack of West Germany, but finally won 2-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4, after a

gruelling tiebreaker for the second set. The two determined players slugged it out shot-for-shot from the baselines for two hours and 38 minutes before the Italian's tenacity paid off. Despite her singles loss, Tarabini came back with a gutsy three-set win with Italian doubles partner Sandra Cecchini over Florencia Labat of Argentina and Czechoslovak Leona Laskova 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

McMenemy named as England number 2

LONDON (R) — Former Southampton Manager Lawrie McMenemy was named Saturday as assistant to the England soccer team's new manager Graham Taylor. The 53-year-old McMenemy, who has been out of soccer for three years since resigning from Second Division Sunderland, will take up his post Monday. McMenemy, the first appointment by Taylor since he took over the England side from Bobby Robson last week, will be responsible for overseeing the England B and under-21 teams, as well as helping with the senior side. Robson's number two, Don Howe, and former England under-21 manager Dave Sexton both resigned after the World Cup last week. McMenemy, who will have a four-year contract, won the F.A. Cup with Southampton in 1976 and the Fourth Division championship as manager of Doncaster in 1969 and Grimsby in 1972.

Lupescu signs for West German club

LEVERKUSEN (R) — Romanian World Cup midfielder Ion Lupescu, has signed a three-year contract with West German First Division side Bayer Leverkusen, the club said. Lupescu, who has played nine times for his country, was transferred from Dynamo Bucharest to Leverkusen for a fee of around 1.6 million marks (\$1 million). Leverkusen, owned by the Bayer Chemical Company, said they would pay part of the transfer fee in the form of medicine for Romania, which is recovering from last year's revolution that overthrew the Ceausescu regime. Leverkusen Coach Juergen Gelsdorf and Manager Reiner Calmund decided to sign him after watching Lupescu play in Romania's World Cup group match against champions Argentina in Naples last month, the club said.

Usha to retire after Peking games

NEW DELHI (R) — India's top track athlete P.T. Usha said Saturday she would retire from competition after September's Asian Games in Peking. "I have been running for a decade now and the Peking games would be my third Asian in a row," Usha said. "It is time I bung up my spikes while at the top." The 25-year-old Usha said she wanted to make her farewell appearance a memorable one and do well in all her four events in Peking — the 400, 200 and 100 metres and the 400 hurdles. Usha, fourth in the 400 metres hurdles at the Los Angeles Olympics — in the absence of East Bloc athletes — six years ago, was written off after a dismal showing at the 1988 Seoul games. But she came back to win four gold and two silver medals at the Asian track and field championships in Delhi last November.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JULY 22, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As the Sun enters Leo today it is a good time for you to rearrange your work schedule so that you enjoy far more of the efficiencies that can lighten your burden.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early quietly plan the days, activities and then carry through despite some conditions that arise to tempt you off in other directions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think about what a friend or acquaintance you have who understands your personal aims and get early that person's support, then follow through.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get out at worldly aims immediately after breakfast and show you have the consistency to attend through-out the day to agreed activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have a desire to be off to new scenes but unless you are aware of all situations that could arise it is not a good time to do so.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look for whatever promises you have made with the determination to do whatever you agreed despite the fact that it is not convenient.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You early know how to get along with an illogical setting, associate and follow through with such a course of action or you fail to get right results.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Family members give you some good advice which later in the day you are likely to feel does not fit the case but you make mistake if you do not follow.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You tune in on how you best put your attitude into some active form from which you can receive considerable praise and applause.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Harmony starts out well at your home but soon tensions can come up if not guarded against which could destroy this desirable accord.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) An early communication or message can bring a hint towards wise and constructive activity today so ignore later matters and carry through with this one.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 21) Get whatever is important of a business nature before noon, then you will find it is best not to make commitments of money, articles.

PISCES: (February 22 to March 21) Think over personal wishes and decide at breakfast what you want the most and then spend the rest of the day working out ways to obtain these aims.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Drive the getaway car
- 5000 year time
- Deluxe
- Arrive
- Sao
- Hawaiian Island
- Who stole a pig?
- Great time
- Holly
- Prelinger and Bismarck
- At any time
- Cerily
- Fruit
- Asparagus
- Expression
- Do a double take
- Kid stuff
- Where's the cat?
- Hovel
- Daily
- Song
- Over
- Milk
- Truth
- Modifies
- Jiller
- Vacuum tube
- Go by
- Night flyer
- Who killed Cock Robin?
- House wings
- Rafuse
- Ski type
- Turn to slush
- Certain fur
- Observed

DOWN

- Commedia dell'
- Yodel
- Mme. Bovary
- Make dolls
- White poplars
- Great
- Grand
- Sixth sense
- Dundie
- negative
- Placard
- Drying oven
- Use a gun
- Attile's men
- Honey holder
- Turn
- BPOE word
- What was only a
- now a
- highroad
- (Marl)
- Georgia
- Gash
- Mountains
- Make a move
- Nesogay
- Fr. law group
- Streams
- Around prf.
- Dismounted
- Have lun
- Barked shrilly
- Factotum
- Close to a solution
- Cruel one
- Evening star
- Noted flosses
- Passageway
- One of a pair
- Quadrant
- Celerity
- Boater
- Carpe
- Rental abbr.
- Soft cheese
- Excellent
- One of a pair
- Quadrant
- Boater
- Rental abbr.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 6-2

"Of course we have something in common — we both are incompatible!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIDUL

YORIN

LENKEN

WELDIM

WHAT A FACE DRAWN WITH CARE MIGHT BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: GIVEN FETCH CANYON ARCADE
Answer: Again in Paris! — ENCORE

Université de Jordanie

Le prix du savoir

L'université de Jordanie, à Amman sur la route de Sweileh, attire un nombre croissant d'étudiants, jordaniens ou étrangers. L'enseignement y est efficace et de qualité, mais le ticket d'entrée coûte cher et le système de bourses n'est pas suffisamment développé... Portrait d'une université d'élite.

L'université de Jordanie existe depuis une bonne vingtaine d'années. Ouverte à tous les bacheliers, elle a pour ambition de former des étudiants de tout le royaume afin qu'ils puissent, en quelques années, devenir les éléments moteurs de la société, et aider le pays à faire un pas en avant vers l'expansion économique et le développement social.

Les 15.609 étudiants qui sont assis actuellement sur les bancs de l'université sont une élite pour le pays, même si leur avenir leur semble parfois incertain et aléatoire. Leur nombre important, bien supérieur à celui des années 1970, constitue un défi pour eux et pour le marché du travail. Recette contre le chômage, les études ne sont ni faciles ni reposantes.

Pourquoi et comment choisit-on l'université de Jordanie plutôt qu'une autre université, jordanienne ou étrangère? «On n'a pas pu aller ailleurs», explique une étudiante. «Nous n'avons pas assez d'argent pour faire des études à l'étranger», explique un autre. «Nous sommes trop isolés des autres universités dans le monde pour juger les autres universités», disent certains, tandis que d'autres répondent, satisfaits: «Pourquoi ne pas faire des études ici, puisque tout le monde



qui plaie aux professeurs, aux étudiants et aux parents car il permet à l'étudiant, si tout va bien, de terminer ses études en trois ans au lieu de quatre. Un gain important pour les familles qui comptent souvent beaucoup sur le soutien financier de leurs enfants. De plus, beaucoup d'étudiants estiment que, sans ce trimestre d'été, ils ne sauraient pas quoi faire de leur temps, d'ayant pas, sauf quelques privilèges, assez d'argent pour voyager.

Quant aux problèmes que ce système pose, ils ne sont pas

nombreux: il faut payer les droits d'inscription tous les trois mois; pas assez de vacances pour se reposer un peu et reprendre son élan pour la prochaine rentrée; et enfin pas suffisamment de temps pour consulter fréquemment la bibliothèque.

Le choix des matières, des horaires de cours et du professeur est laissé à l'étudiant. Pour beaucoup d'entre eux, c'est un pas vers l'indépendance, la liberté et la responsabilisation.

Étudiant en troisième année de psychologie, Ibrahim Zureikat estime que les matières qu'il a choisies

pour ce semestre sont de bonnes valeurs pour son avenir.

Un problème dont tout le monde souffre est la courte période des inscriptions, qui se limite à cinq ou six jours dans le meilleur des cas. Quelques centaines, parfois mille étudiants, se serrent alors dans la salle des inscriptions: c'est trop!

Pour trouver du travail plus facilement à la sortie, les étudiants s'efforcent d'obtenir la moyenne la plus élevée à l'issue de leurs études.

Turki Diab, docteur en lettres, déclare avoir choisi l'université

de Jordanie pour y enseigner parce qu'il est amoureux d'elle. «C'est mon lieu de rêve, insiste-t-il, car je sais qu'une bonne université comme celle-ci a besoin de gens qualifiés sur le plan pédagogique, scientifique et social.» Ce qu'il recherche avant tout, c'est un bon contact humain avec l'étudiant, le vrai et peut-être le seul capital de la Jordanie, selon lui. Mais il souhaiterait que les portes des universités soient ouvertes à tous les milieux, avec des frais de scolarité moins importants.

Si le diplôme est le bon passeport pour l'emploi et le bon moyen de franchir de nouvelles frontières pour la Jordanie, il est indispensable de le mettre à la portée financière de tout le monde.

Osama al-Qudab

Chiffres

Au total, l'université de Jordanie compte 822 enseignants pour former 15.609 étudiants, dans ses 13 facultés.

En 1989, 2.986 étudiants sont sortis diplômés en poche (maîtrise, DEA ou doctorat) de ses murs.

Trans-Manche

Le tunnel bientôt à mi-parcours

Le 15 juin 1993, la première navette s'élancera dans le tunnel sous la Manche flambant neuf, et réalisera un rêve caressé depuis près de deux cents ans par des dizaines d'ingénieurs désireux de supprimer le détroit du Pas-de-Calais qui sépare la France de la Grande-Bretagne. Car c'est en 1802 qu'Albert Mathieu-Favier propose au premier consul Bonaparte, le premier projet de tunnel foré dans le fond du détroit et comportant deux galeries, l'une éclairée par des torches pour les malles-poste et l'autre pour l'écoulement des eaux d'infiltration. Au début de l'année 1990, les tunneliers qui rongent nuit et jour à quarante mètres sous le fond de la mer avaient réalisé un tiers de l'ouvrage. On s'attend à ce qu'un beau jour du mois de décembre de cette année les équipes française et britannique se retrouvent dans le tunnel de service pour une poignée de maiols historiques.

1,40 mètre à l'heure

Les tunneliers qui rongent la roche sont de véritables trains de trois-cents mètres de long, dont la tête est un bouclier pivotant dont les dents de tungstène érodent la craie avant de l'évacuer vers l'arrière du «traio» est une machine qui tapisse les parois de la cavité avec des voûtes étanches à la cadence de 1,40 mètres à l'heure. Le conducteur de l'engin est guidé par un faisceau laser et ne doit pas s'être trompé de plus de quarante centimètres au point de jonction avec les équipes creusant de l'autre côté. Environ 3.000 ouvriers travaillent sur chacun des chantiers, ouverts sur les deux rives de la Manche, vingt quatre heures sur vingt quatre et 364 jours par an, puisque seule la fête de la Sainte Barbe, patronne des mineurs, est chômée...



Les tunneliers travaillent 364 jours par an.

véhicules descendront de la navette comme ils le font d'un car-ferry et rejoindront le réseau routier classique. Le prix du passage sera vraisemblablement de 10 à 15% inférieur à ceux des bateaux en service actuellement.

Un ouvrage rentable

Les difficultés n'ont pas manqué pour ce qui est considéré comme le chantier le plus important de la planète. Tout d'abord, les tunneliers n'ont pas fonctionné immédiatement de façon optimale. Du côté français, il était prévu que les tunneliers rattachés des infiltrations d'eau; aussi sont-ils conçus pour affronter, comme un sous-marin, des pressions de 10 kilos par centimètre carré, mais les conduites qui acheminent les boues d'abord sous pression, puis sous atmosphère normale, ont commencé à se rompre sous l'effort. Du côté anglais, les tunneliers ont été

obligés de creuser en terrain inondé alors que les géologues avaient annoncé qu'il serait sec, ce qui a ralenti considérablement leur avance. Tout est rentré dans l'ordre et le chantier est même, du côté français, en avance de plusieurs semaines, sur l'échéancier.

L'entreprise a aussi dû affronter des disputes financières. Lorsqu'il est apparu inévitable que le tunnel coûterait 15 milliards de francs de plus que les 60 milliards qui avaient été annoncés, le concessionnaire «Eurotunnel» et les entreprises chargées de la construction réunies dans le consortium «Transmanche Link» ont eu du mal à s'entendre sur la répartition de cette charge imprévue. Les 208 banques qui financent l'ouvrage les ont persuadé d'accepter un compromis au début du mois de février. Le chantier continue.

Même les sceptiques qui ont longtemps prédit que le tunnel sous la Manche ne serait pas plus avancé que lors des tentatives précédentes, en 1881 et 1973, commencent à y croire. Près d'une vingtaine de milliards de francs y ont été dépensés. La SNCF, British Rail et la SNCB belge ont commandé les TGV qui y circuleront. Les 400.000 actionnaires du monde entier qui ont apporté leurs fonds à Eurotunnel ont de bonnes raisons d'espérer la rentabilité exceptionnelle de 18% qui leur a été promise puisque, dès la première année de son fonctionnement, le tunnel ne verra pas passer moins de trente millions de passagers.

Alain Faujas

EN BREF

Koweït-Irak. L'Irak a accusé le Koweït dans un mémorandum adressé lundi à la Ligue arabe de «voler» depuis 1980 du pétrole irakien en pompant dans la nape du champ pétrolier de Roumalla, près de la frontière commune, et de grignoter ses fructifications. Bagdad a également accusé le Koweït d'«inonder délibérément» et en complicité avec les Emirats Arabes Unis, le marché pétrolier international en violation des quotas fixés par l'OPEP. Le Koweït a rejeté ce bloc jeudi ces accusations et a demandé, dans un message adressé au secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe, de choisir une commission arabe qui serait chargée de trancher dans l'affaire de ses frontières avec l'Irak.

Sud-Liban. Les combats ont repris lundi entre le mouvement Amal (pro-syrien) et le Hezbollah (pro-iranien) qui se disputent le contrôle de la communauté chiite au Sud-Liban, faisant au moins 44 tués et 104 blessés, en majorité des miliciens. Une trêve humanitaire, demandée par le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (CICR) et acceptée par les belligérants, n'a pas été respectée, et les combats ont repris avec violence dès jeudi soir dans le massif de l'Iqlim at-Toufiah.

Ben Bella. L'ancien président algérien Ahmed Ben Bella, qui est exilé en Suisse, rentrera en Algérie début septembre. Ahmed Ben Bella, président de la toute nouvelle république algérienne en 1962, renversé en 1965 par le colonel Houari Boumédiène, vivant en exil depuis 1981 après 14 ans de détention, revient au pays «pour y renforcer le mouvement démocratique».

Cachemire. Les véritables discussions sur le Cachemire entre l'Inde et le Pakistan ont commencé jeudi à Islamabad après une première journée consacrée à définir avec précision les causes de la crise entre les deux pays. Ces entretiens surviennent après quelque six mois de grave tension à la frontière entre les deux pays. Le Cachemire, partagé entre l'Inde et le Pakistan, fait l'objet d'un litige territorial qui a conduit à deux des trois guerres indo-pakistanaïses.

USA-Vietnam. Le secrétaire d'Etat américain, James Baker, rompt un ostracisme de 15 ans envers le Vietnam, a annoncé mercredi l'ouverture du dialogue avec Hanoi pour empêcher le retour des Khmers Rouges au Cambodge. Washington veut dialoguer avec les Vietnamiens pour les convaincre d'exercer leur influence sur M. Hun Sen afin de créer les conditions propices à des élections libres au Cambodge. Il a affirmé qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'une normalisation des rapports avec le Vietnam, avec lequel les Etats-Unis ont toujours pas établi de relations diplomatiques depuis la fin de la guerre en 1975.

Séisme. Le tremblement de terre qui a frappé lundi dernier les Philippines a probablement coûté la vie à 700 personnes et fait un millier de blessés, selon les derniers bilans officiels. Plus de 400 personnes, dont au moins cinq étrangers, ont été officiellement déclarées tuées par le séisme, qui avait atteint une intensité de 7,7 sur l'échelle ouverte de Richter.

Trafic. Une enquête administrative sur une affaire de trafic d'armes, entre le Liban et la France a été demandée par le ministre des Affaires Etrangères français, M. Roland Dumas. Des armes achetées au Liban par des policiers travaillant au service de sécurité de l'ambassade de France à Beyrouth auraient été revendues à la pègre française et auraient notamment été utilisées lors d'attaques de transports de fonds en France.

France-Japon. Les premiers ministres japonais et français, MM. Toshiki Kaifu et Michel Rocard sont convenus jeudi à Tokyo d'intensifier à l'avenir leur coopération en politique étrangère et envisagent la création d'un comité pour des échanges de vues réguliers entre les deux pays.

Inflexion. Conséquence des grands changements survenus à l'Est, le budget 1991 de la Défense française est un budget d'inflexion. Ce budget, fixé à 195 milliards de F (35,5 milliards de dollars), affiche une hausse de 3% par rapport à 1990, soit à peine plus que l'inflation prévue pour cette année prochaine (2,5%), mais nettement moins que la progression moyenne du budget (5,4%).

Canal-Enfants. Une septième chaîne de télévision, Canal-Enfants, a été autorisée à émettre par faisceau hertzien par le Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel, organisme chargé en France de la régulation de l'audiovisuel. Chaîne à péage, Canal-Enfants, présentera un programme ininterrompu de 7h30 à 21h30 au plus tard, variable en fonction du calendrier scolaire et composé à 35% de fiction, 15% de dessins animés, 10% de documentaires et 40% de jeux et de productions originales.

LA SEMAINE...

de Suleiman Sweiss

«Pétra»: le drame

Non, il ne s'agit pas de la célèbre cité rose au sud de la Jordanie, mais de la jeune banque qui vient de décoller à l'âge de 12 ans à Amman. C'est un véritable drame socio-économique et financier. Déjà en février dernier, les employés de la banque avaient présenté la catastrophe. Ils ont mené un mouvement courageux de protestation et de revendication. Les employés et leur syndicat ont gagné un soutien au niveau national. Ils ont signé avec l'administration provisoire de la banque un accord honorable. Aujourd'hui 700 employés de la banque Pétra ont perdu leur travail. Leur boîte est co train d'être liquidée par la décision gouvernementale du «Comité de la sécurité économique». Ceci est d'autant plus paradoxal que le licenciement de ces centaines d'employés survient au moment où la Chambre des députés débat sur le problème du chômage! Qui peut croire encore à la «politique» du pouvoir exécutif dans ce domaine?



Certes, certains responsables, notamment le gouverneur de la Banque Centrale, ont rassuré les employés de la banque Pétra. Mais ces déclarations n'ont pas «force de loi» comme l'a dit le chef du syndicat des employés de banque il y a quelques jours. Dans les milieux syndicaux, on affirme que les autres banques peuvent intégrer deux cents employés au maximum. En attendant, une grande partie des employés se retrouvent dans la rue du jour au lendemain. Ils vivent dans une inquiétude profonde sur leur vie et leur avenir professionnel.

A qui la faute? C'est connu: la liquidation de la banque est l'aboutissement d'un imbroglio. L'opinion publique n'a pas encore ressenti la volonté de la part des autorités de dévoiler toute la vérité sur le sujet. Au cours de la période du «boom» économique, en effet, l'ancienne direction de la banque, notamment son P-D-G, Ahmad Chalabi, s'est permis de tenter des opérations financières douteuses qui échappaient au contrôle de la Banque Centrale. En août de l'année dernière, on a démis le Conseil d'Administration de ses fonctions et on a poursuivi M. Chalabi judiciairement. Celui-ci avait déjà quitté le pays illégalement quelques jours au paravant. Résultat: la banque est en faillite de quelque 250 millions de dinars. C'est la somme, dit-on, que M. Chalabi aurait emporté avec lui à l'étranger.

Quoi qu'il en soit, cette somme doit être payée ou remboursée par quelqu'un ou, mieux, récupérée. Un an après la dissolution du Conseil d'Administration, le gouvernement a trouvé la solution: la somme sera remboursée par la Banque Centrale, autant dire l'argent du peuple. De plus, les employés seront en grande partie chômeurs. Quant aux responsables de ce drame - pour ne pas dire les voleurs - eh bien, ils passent leurs vacances paisiblement et agréablement en ce moment en Europe!

Nous allons attendre pour voir si les représentants du peuple au Parlement vont approuver ou non cette solution du problème. Notons que le gouvernement a eu recours au soi-disant «Comité de la sécurité économique» - issu de l'état d'urgence et des lois martiales - pour faire passer sa décision.

Au moment où l'on enquête sur une dizaine de cas de corruption, est-il admissible de clore le dossier de la banque Pétra de cette manière?

Il est certain que l'affaire de «Pétra» et d'autres banques (Jordan-Gulf bank, etc...) doivent ouvrir les yeux sur les lacunes qui existent dans le système de contrôle établi par la Banque Centrale. Il s'agit de sommes d'argent qui appartiennent au peuple, même si ces banques sont des établissements privés. Est-il possible, par exemple, d'étendre l'autorité de la Cour des comptes sur les grands établissements financiers? Comment peut-on empêcher la répétition de l'affaire «Pétra»? Bref, nous avons besoin d'introduire des réformes substantielles dans le système bancaire du pays afin de le purifier de la corruption et de redéfinir son rôle et son fonctionnement, au service de l'économie du pays.

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Baisse de la fréquentation

Controverse autour du festival de Jerash

Entre espoir et déception, les visiteurs du festival de Jerash ont changé cette année d'attitude et d'opinion sur le contenu de cet événement pourtant remarqu-

«En comparaison avec les années précédentes, le festival a régressé, estime un ingénieur qui a assisté à la plupart des manifestations des deux premiers jours. A mon avis, la principale raison de la régression du festival cette année est que les gens ne vont plus là-bas pour participer et profiter de ses aspects culturels».

D'autres personnes qui n'ont pas assisté au festival cette année expriment le même point de vue, considérant qu'il n'y a pas assez de groupes connus contrairement à ce qu'on avait observé pendant toute l'histoire du festival.

De plus, le spectacle de Nabil Sh'eil, un chanteur très célèbre, a été marqué par un incident au

able. Ils expriment, pour une grande majorité d'entre eux, une insatisfaction quant à la qualité artistique et culturelle de ses spectacles.

début du festival: des gens ont distribué des brochures de présentation du festival pendant qu'il chantait et se sont plongés dans cette lecture au lieu de l'écouter. Ces perturbations et le désordre général qui s'est ensuivi, ont contribué à faire de ce spectacle un échec.

D'autres personnes, qui ont assisté au festival, critiquent le manque de profondeur des activités culturelles proposées. «Un objectif du festival est d'enrichir les mouvements culturels en Jordanie, en offrant au public l'ensemble des créateurs jordaniens du moment dans les domaines différents de la culture et des arts, mais je crois qu'on est loin d'avoir atteint cet objectif, considère une institutrice d'Irbid.

«Je crois que les activités culturelles ne sont pas d'un niveau assez élevé. En fait, elles ont besoin de la coopération du public plus que de celle des autorités compétentes», explique un étudiant en magistère à l'Université de Jordanie.

Cependant, d'autres gens se plaignent de ce qu'ils appellent «le comportement des gens là-bas» et de la cherté des places et des produits à consommer sur place.

«Pour vous dire la vérité, j'aime bien aller au festival de

Jerash, mais cette année, j'ai été très déçue par le fait que j'ai été beaucoup plus dérangée que les années précédentes par le comportement des hommes envers notre groupe de femmes, raconte une participante. Un homme qui était complètement saouli a agressé une fille de notre groupe pendant qu'elle était en train d'acheter des boissons et nous avons dû faire appeler la police pour qu'il mette fin à ses actes.

La hausse des prix au festival a été un autre élément essentiel du renouveau de beaucoup de gens à y aller plusieurs fois comme les années précédentes.

«Le fait que les prix des rafraichissements et des denrées soient doublés au festival nous a découragés de participer à certains événements cette année», affirme un couple de spectateurs.

«Je crois que ce festival est le seul vrai événement culturel de ce pays et qu'il faut lui donner plus d'importance et plus de travail, explique un directeur d'une grosse entreprise d'Amman. A mon avis, c'est le rôle du public, en fait, de participer d'avantage et de contribuer à la réussite du festival, spécialement dans le domaine culturel».

S.K.

Groupe de Fuheis

Un succès mérité

Ce soir, le groupe folklorique de Fuheis (GFF) animera le théâtre sud, au festival de Jerash, par sa musique arabe classique et ses chansons tirées du folklore jordanien. Il s'agit d'un groupe distingué qui a connu jusqu'à aujourd'hui un succès et une popularité assez grands, à l'intérieur comme à l'extérieur de la Jordanie (Syrie, Irak, Tunisie, etc.). Le Jourdain a rencontré à cette occasion un des principaux animateurs du groupe, Sakhr Hattar, 27 ans, professeur à l'Institut National de Musique.

Le Jourdain: Voulez-vous bien retracer un peu la genèse et l'évolution de votre groupe?

Sakhr Hattar: En 1976-1977, il y avait un centre culturel dans notre ville, Fuheis (à 20km à l'ouest d'Amman). Moi et quelques amis, nous y entraînions des adolescents, jusqu'à ce que le centre ferme ses portes en 1978. En 1980, j'ai commencé à étudier la musique. Vu l'absence de débouchés pour les musiciens dans le pays, mes amis et moi avons commencé à nous entraîner pour former un groupe. Nous voulons également affirmer l'existence de notre musique arabe originale face à l'invasion de la musique occidentale qui a assailli les jeunes du pays. Au début de 1982, nous étions 12 garçons et 8 filles, la plupart des amis, pour lancer le groupe. Nous nous préparons à faire notre première apparition au IIIe festival de Jerash en juillet 1982 (reporté à juillet 1983 à cause de la guerre du Liban). Nous avons beaucoup travaillé et nous avons annoncé notre première apparition par une grande campagne de publicité. Les billets ont été vite vendus et un grand nombre de personnes ont dû rester dehors, frustrées. Le succès que nous avons rencontré en 1983 nous a encouragés à aller encore plus loin. Depuis, nous participons au festival de Jerash chaque année, sauf en 1989.

LJ: Pourquoi?

SH: Pour des raisons que je n'aime pas évoquer ici... C'est du passé.



Groupe de Fuheis: réhabiliter la musique arabe classique.

LJ: Avez-vous animé des soirées en dehors du festival de Jerash?

SH: Oui, en l'honneur de la population de Fuheis, qui nous a soutenus beaucoup, et en mai dernier avec la collaboration du club des jeunes à Fuheis. Nous avons aussi animé quelques soirées à Amman, mais c'est rare.

En revanche, nous avons eu l'honneur de représenter la Jordanie au festival de Carthage (en Tunisie) en 1987, et au festival de Bebel (en Irak) en 1988 et en 1989. C'est le Ministère de la culture qui nous a demandé d'y participer.

LJ: Comment vous débrouillez-vous financièrement?

SH: D'abord, nous ne travaillons pas en permanence pour le groupe. Les quatre premières années nous comptons sur nous-mêmes et sur la population de Fuheis. En 1987, le Ministère de la culture nous a soutenus un peu. Pour le moment, ce qui compte pour nous c'est le soutien moral des autorités.

LJ: Le nom officiel de votre groupe est «Le groupe de Fuheis pour la réanimation du patrimoine», pourquoi ce nom?

SH: Nous croyons que la musique arabe classique est beaucoup plus riche que le folklore jordanien. Or le public jordanien n'avait pas l'occasion auparavant d'avoir un contact direct avec cette musique. Nous voulons réactiver cette belle musique (celle de l'Andalousie par exemple) et la faire apprécier par le public arabe (nos cassettes se vendent en Syrie, en Jordanie, en Irak et ailleurs).

En même temps, nous considérons ce travail comme une introduction indispensable pour développer la chanson arabe moderne et, enfin, pour aider à développer la culture artistique du public arabe en général. Nous devons faire face à l'invasion des chansons importées de loin.

LJ: Qu'y a-t-il de nouveau au IXe festival de Jerash?

SH: Il y aura beaucoup de chansons du folklore jordanien qui seront interprétées pour la première fois. Il y aura également deux nouveaux jeunes joueurs de luth, âgés de 13 et 14 ans. Je terminerai la soirée par un récital de luth en solo.

Propos recueillis par Salehman Sweiss

A L'AFFICHE

F O C U S

Cendrillon à Jerash

Sur le compte du bien, du mal et du laid

Le Haya Arts Center d'Amman présentera les mardi 24, mercredi 25 et jeudi 26 au soir, à Jerash, un spectacle de quatorze marionnettes, en langage populaire jordanien, sur l'histoire de Cendrillon.

Cette version de Hassan Kambachawi, réalisée par Nabil Sawalha, ne s'appuie ni sur le conte célèbre de Charles Perrault («Les contes de ma mère L'Oye») ni sur la version non moins connue des frères Grimm («Les contes de l'enfant et du foyer»). L'auteur y a pris les indications générales du scénario et les a adaptées à la mode orientale. Le spectacle est présenté dans le monde entier en plus de 500 versions différentes, dont la plus ancienne remonte à la Chine du IXème siècle - reste intacte: malmenée par sa belle-mère et ses deux demi-sœurs, et malgré tous leurs complots, la fidèle Cendrillon - avec l'aide d'une fée bienveillante - réussit à faire la rencontre d'un prince qui fera son bonheur.

Pour les créateurs de la version jordanienne, il ne faisait aucun doute que l'histoire de Cendrillon évoquait le conflit éternel entre le bien et le mal. Ce qui opposait l'auteur et le réalisateur, avant qu'ils ne se mettent finalement d'accord, c'était la façon de représenter ces deux antipodes.

«Je voulais que mes poupées reflètent clairement les notions du bien et du mal, dit Hassan Kambachawi, qui est aussi le fabricant des marionnettes, que ma Cendrillon soit une beauté éblouissante et que la marâtre qui la tourmente, ainsi que ses deux filles jalouses, soient aussi laides que des poux».

«Erreur!», s'est alors écrié Nabil Sawalha. «J'ai expliqué à Hassan, poursuit-il, qu'il nous fallait, pour être vraisemblables, une conception plus nuancée. Faute de quoi ces correspondances - le bien avec un visage beau et le mal avec une mine laide - donneraient - surtout au jeune public - une idée fautive de ce qui constitue le bien dans la vie. Le bien ne fait pas toujours le bien et le laid n'incarne pas toujours le mal».

Conséquences: Cendrillon se transforme en fille de beauté moyenne et les demi-sœurs laiderons, en demoiselles attrayantes. Même la cruelle belle-mère se révèle avoir été une beauté en son temps. Quant au prince, c'est un jeune homme plus charmé que charmant, une qualité qui plaît à son animateur interprète, Mimir Qaddoumi, un des comédiens qui prêtent leur voix aux quatorze fantoches et marionnettes à gaine et à tige.

«Les nuances de Nabil font l'intérêt de ce rôle, estime Mimir Qaddoumi, jaugeant les mérites de son prince. Comme il ne correspond pas à une idée préconçue du prince des contes et n'est pas d'emblée une personne frappante, je suis contraint d'évoquer ses vertus par sa façon de parler et de se comporter. J'ai bien étudié ses qualités. C'est un jeune homme de caractère accommodant et charitable, qui veut le bien de tous. Il a une beauté naturelle. Voilà ce qui fait son charme».

L'interprétation de la fée marraine, en revanche - un problème épineux du spectacle - ne fut résolue que grâce à l'idée conventionnelle que l'on peut avoir d'une fée.

En arabe, explique le réalisateur Nabil Sawalha, le mot «djeniyeh» évoque un être de disposition méchante. Or la fée dans ce drame représente la conscience du public qui cherche à récompenser Cendrillon pour son humilité et sa dévotion. Nous avons résolu le dilemme en créant une poupée radieuse qui apparaît comme un élément presque impalpable, même à Cendrillon, et nous avons ajouté un qualificatif à l'appellation: elle est maintenant «djeniyat al-Kheir», la fée de la bonté.

A propos du fameux soulier, grâce auquel le Prince reconnaît Cendrillon, et dont on se demande depuis des lustres s'il doit être en velours ou en verre, l'interprète du prince, Mimir Qaddoumi se contente de sourire, tandis que l'auteur se prépare à exprimer un avis: «Ni en verre, ni en velours, dit Hassan Kambachawi, mais il lui conviendra à ravir».

Sami Kamal

CINEMA

TELEVISION

«Le magnifique» (1973). Film d'aventures et de suspense, de Philippe de Broca, avec Jean-Paul Belmondo. Poursuites en voiture et cascades garanties, avec l'humour en prime. Centre Culturel Français, jeudi 23 juillet à 20h00.

«The African Queen», de C.S. Forester, avec Humphrey Bogart et Katherine Hepburn (Noir et Blanc). L'histoire d'un marin solitaire et bourru qui embarque à son bord une belle missionnaire. Ils descendent ensemble un fleuve africain long et tumultueux pour tenter de saboter un navire allemand pendant la première guerre mondiale. Centre américain, dimanche 22 à 19h00 (en anglais).

«The red badge of courage», (1951) inspiré du célèbre roman américain de Stephen Crane sur les tribulations d'une jeune recrue de l'armée américaine pendant la guerre de Sécession: les marches, la peur du combat, la souffrance, la honte, d'un jeune homme qui mourir trop vite. Le thème de la peur exprime aussi la haine de John Huston à l'égard du McCarthisme, qui sévissait à l'époque où le film fut tourné. Centre américain, le jeudi 26 juillet à 19h (en anglais).

Ciné-club. Séance quotidienne à 20h00. Projection supplémentaire pour les jeunes, le jeudi à 16h00.

Dimanche: «Birdy» (1985), d'Alan Parker. L'ami: «Gothic» (1989), de Ken Russell.

Mardi: «The big costume» (1984), film irakien de Shukri Jamal.

Mercredi: «Chronique of the years of fire», film algérien de Lakhdar Hamina.

Jeudi: «Kasr Kassem», film libanais de Purihan Dilawari.

Vendredi: «Zest», film marocain de Taïef Fadiky.

Samedi: «I love the sweet fruits» (1976), film syrien de Marwan Habbad.

Films en version originale. Route de l'université, première à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche. Le ciné-club se trouve à environ 300 m. sur la gauche de la route.

DIMANCHE
17h45 - Douras, le roman d'un sorcier. Dessin animé.
18h15 - L'été indien. Documentaire. Aujourd'hui et de la communication des langues.
18h35 - Les contes de ma mère L'Oye. Documentaire.
19h00 - Le journal.
19h15 - Contes de ma mère L'Oye. Musique classique.

LUNDI
18h10 - L'été indien. Série documentaire.
19h00 - Le journal.
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI
17h45 - L'été indien. Série documentaire.
18h20 - Des chiffres et des lettres. Jeu.
18h40 - Le journal.
19h00 - L'été indien. Série documentaire.
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire. Saïd Madi.

MERCREDI
17h50 - L'été indien. Série documentaire.
18h15 - Le journal.
19h15 - Sélection de films français.

JEUDI
17h45 - «Moukoko» (1983). Dessin animé.
18h19 - Des chiffres et des lettres. Jeu.
18h30 - La Chanson aux Chaussons. Animation.
19h00 - Le journal.
19h15 - Séance. Le magazine de l'évasion.

VENREDI
17h20 - Sans famille. Film en couleurs inspiré du célèbre roman d'Hector Malot, avec Bernard Blier, Pierre Brasseur et Robert Clément. Le petit Remy n'a pas pu être élevé par ses riches parents. Il est élevé par une famille pauvre, qui, faute de moyens, le confie à un instituteur d'immense puritanisme. Il retourne enfin à sa véritable mère.
19h00 - Le journal.
19h15 - La révolution de l'intelligence. Aujourd'hui la médecine de l'islam classique.

SAMEDI
17h45 - «Le monde est à vous» Emission de jeux et variétés présentée par Jacques Martin, avec la chanteuse Patricia Kaas.
19h00 - Le journal.
19h15 - Documentaire éducatif: Connais ta langue.

DIVERS

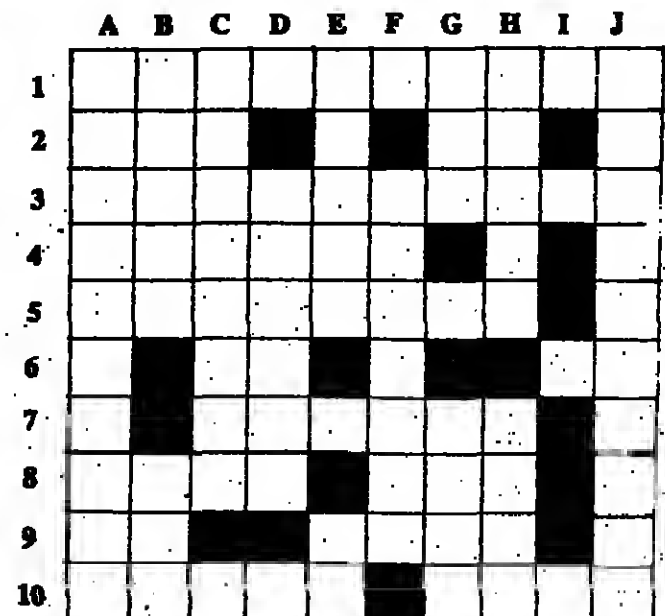
CONCERTS

Marionnettes. Représentation de Cendrillon (Cinderella), d'après le conte de Charles Perrault, par le Haya Arts Center. Voir Focus. Festival de Jerash, les mardi 24, mercredi 25 et jeudi 26 juillet, de 19h30 à 21h. Prix des places: 1 JD.

JEUX

Mots croisés

par Florence Moutel



Horizontalement.

1: pour départager. 2: pronom personnel; lettre grecque. 3: réprouvé par la morale. 4: exprime. 5: pour le fil et les aiguilles. 6: refus anglais; intersection. 7: faute. 8: mesure; 100 m2. 9: spécialité; satellite de la Terre. 10: coupe le petit bois; époques.

Verticalement.

A: elles vivent à l'est du Rhin. B: sans le sou; tente. C: chapeau à deux pointes. D: toujours. E: réprimande; article. F: fait partie des épreuves de gymnastique. G: co-pain; reçoit le bulletin de vote. H: peu; brâmer. J: instruments de musique.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 19:

Horizontalement.

1: chantonnet. 2: rôti; aise. 3: oreilles. 4: urine; abbé. 5: sentes; rée. 6: sue; Sillon. 7: lras; édit. 8: strate. 9: lit; items. 10: éminences.

Verticalement.

A: croustille. B: horreur; ut. C: attitudes. D: aussi; ston. E: trées. F: si; Ain. G: Nas; dent. H: si; brodées. I: ex; bini. J: semée; tent.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

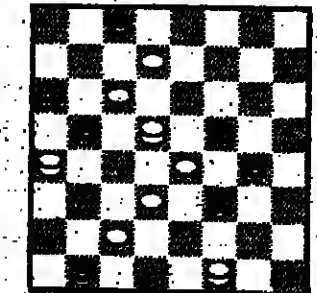
BABY-BOOM. Neuf mois après le tremblement de terre de San Francisco, les cliniques de la région ont enregistré une augmentation des naissances, atteignant quelques fois le double des naissances habituelles journalières. Une jeune maman a raconté que le séisme l'avait «approché» de son mari. «Nous avons réalisé que nous n'étions jamais sûrs de nous revoir», a-t-elle déclaré.

MOMIES. Le British Museum a autorisé deux experts hollandais à effectuer des prélèvements sur des momies égyptiennes pour dépister l'existence éventuelle du virus du SIDA (HIV) dans l'ancienne Egypte. Les chercheurs néerlandais émettent l'hypothèse selon laquelle ces virus étaient prévalents chez les singes en Afrique depuis plusieurs milliers d'années, avant une mutation récente qui a entraîné l'actuelle épidémie chez les humains.

TOILE. Une toile de 50 mètres sur 250 mètres, peinte par 30.000 habitants de Miyazaki, au sud du Japon, figurera dans la prochaine édition du Guinness Book, en tant que plus grand tableau du monde.

DAMES

Problème N. 20.



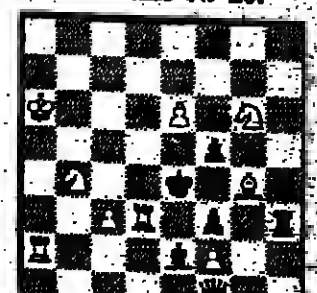
Les blancs gagnent en cinq coups.

Solution du problème N. 19:

B: 30-26; N: 19-12; B: 6-8; N: 13-6; B: 27-22; N: 1-10; B: 22-13; N: 10-17; B: 31-28; N: 23-32; B: 8-12; N: 16-23; B: 12-28; N: 32-23; B: 26-29; N: 17-26; B: 29-22.

ECHecs

Problème N. 20.



Mat avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 19:

Fd7-c6.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Italian aid plan gets cool response

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) has reacted coolly to Italy's proposals for a new development bank for Mediterranean countries and for EC countries to spend one per cent of gross national product (GNP) on foreign aid. Diplomats said both ideas were referred to the European Commission for study. Italy took over the EC presidency on July 1, keen to intensify links with Mediterranean countries during its six-month stint. Some ministers questioned the need for a new financial institution for the region, the diplomats said. Britain criticised the one per cent target for foreign aid, half for developing countries with the rest split equally between the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe, saying it was wrong to mix traditional aid with new efforts to help reformers in Eastern Europe. Denmark, the EC country which spends most proportionally on aid, pointed out that the Community was already falling short of a U.N. aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP and called talk of an increase premature.

Foreign investments in Indonesia surge

JAKARTA (AP) — Growing labour and production costs in other countries have made Indonesia comparatively better place to invest, a trend reflected in growing foreign investment in the first half of this year, a senior official has said. Total foreign investment in the first six months of 1990 reached \$4.57 billion, almost equalling the \$4.71 billion posted during all of 1989, said chairman of the investment coordinating board Sanyoto Sasrowardoyo. "External factors, including the high appreciation of some foreign currencies, which makes Indonesian products more competitive, in addition to high production and labour costs" were encouraging more foreign investment, he said. Sasrowardoyo said the government was seeking to encourage more investment by foreign firms through deregulation and other improvements in the investment climate. Japan accounts for 24 per cent of all foreign investment in Indonesia, with \$8.24 billion in more than 300 projects, followed by Hong Kong, with \$3.44 billion in 159 projects, the United States, with \$1.995 billion in 109 projects and West Germany, with \$1.85 billion in 46 projects.

Malta signs contracts with oil firms

VALLETTA (AP) — Malta has signed a production-sharing contract with the American oil company (Amoco) and the Australian subsidiary BHP for oil and gas exploration in two offshore blocks in the Malta channel. Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami called the agreement a landmark in the island's oil exploration programme. The agreement covers 4,200 square kilometres north of the island and is part of a much larger area opened for exploration two years ago. The area lies close to the rich Italian Vega oilfield. The production sharing contract is for 30 years with the first seven being allocated for exploration. Under the contract the two companies would have to spend at least \$23 million in the first three years. They must also drill at least two wells, the first within 18 months, the second within 30 months.

Ford to build \$80m plant in Hungary

BUDAPEST (R) — The Ford Motor Company has announced it would set up an \$80 million parts plant in Hungary. Bruce Blythe, Ford Europe's vice president, told a news conference the plant would produce 3.2 million ignition coils and fuel pumps a year starting in 1992, to be used in Ford vehicles produced in Germany, Britain, Spain, Belgium and Portugal. The scheme, approved by the Hungarian government, would enable Ford to import cars to Hungary funded by the export sales of the components produced at the plant. "Ford's goal was to establish a world class operation in Hungary, fully competitive... with the best automotive components manufactured anywhere," a company statement read. With Japan's Suzuki and General Motors (G.M.), Ford is the third Western automaker in Hungary. No passenger cars are scheduled for manufacture until 1992, when the Suzuki and the G.M. plant begin operating. Blythe said no site had been chosen for the plant, where 200 people would be employed to produce "components critical for achieving low exhaust emission levels that would become standard across Europe in the mid-1990s."

PRB bankruptcy raises security fears

BRUSSELS (R) — The bankruptcy of Poudrieres Reunies de Belgique (PRB) a British-owned munitions and explosives producer in Belgium, has created security problems, Belgian Interior Minister Louis Tobback has said. "It is not like a biscuit maker going bankrupt. We cannot leave everything lying around while waiting for someone to take care of it," he told Belgian radio. PRB's outgoing managing director, John Pike, told Reuters: "There is a large amount of explosives material stored in certain sites." Tobback said he would meet local government and company representatives and police and defence officials to explore ways to ensuring security at PRB's five factories. The company, which employs 1,300 people, was declared bankrupt by the Brussels Commercial Court despite having 25 orders worth five billion Belgian francs (\$147 million) on its order books. Three receivers were named to wind up the affairs of PRB, owned by Astra Holdings PLC of Britain. PRB rejected an offer by two French arms concerns to acquire part of the company because it would have put major financial strains on Astra.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, July 20, 1990 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	French franc	120.7 121.4
U.S. dollar	663.0	667.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	445.7 448.4
Pound Sterling	1203.1	1210.3	Dutch guilder	339.5 341.7
Deutschemark	404.9	407.3	Swedish crown	111.5 112.2
Swiss franc	474.0	476.8	Italian lira (for 100)	55.3 55.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	200.9 202.1

China criticises conditions on aid to developing nations

BEIJING (AP) — Rich countries have no right to attach political conditions to financial aid to poorer nations, an official Chinese commentary said Friday. "The imposition of one's political will and values upon others cannot be accepted by any independent sovereign nations," said the commentary, which was first published in the overseas edition of the People's Daily and excerpted by the Xinhua news agency. It accused Western nations of trying to "control African countries in the political, economic, ideological and cultural fields."

"Actually, those developed Western countries, some of whom... cruelly exploited and looted the African continent, should bear responsibilities for the heavy economic burdens upon the African states," it said. The argument is one China has made with increasing frequency over the past year as, shunned by the West, it has rediscovered its 1960s role as a champion of the Third World. Premier Li Peng told Niger's foreign minister, Sani Bako, in Beijing Wednesday that the gap between rich and poor countries is growing.

"These phenomena are caused by unequal exchanges and the unreasonable international economic order," Li said. Xinhua said China agreed to give Niger a loan but did not say how much. Bako is one of a long line of African and Arab officials who have visited China in the past year, while most Western countries have sent only a few, relatively low-level officials. China in turn has sent an unusually large number of delegations to the Third World.

The People's Daily commentary did not mention the parallel between tied aid to African countries and China's own situation. The major industrialised nations are just beginning to restore grants and loans for China that were suspended in 1989 after China's army attacked pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing. China has argued that its policy on human rights is an internal matter and that foreign countries have no right to criticise it for executing demonstrators.

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Study looks into U.S. share trading technology

WASHINGTON (AP) — While U.S. securities markets lead the world in efficiency and fairness, they're not quite ready for the international arena because they lag in implementing the latest technology, according to a congressional study.

Last month several securities exchanges in New York and Chicago announced plans to phase in over the next few years computerised, nighttime trading, to regain some of the business lost to foreign competitors.

But the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) an arm of Congress that analyses science and technology, says the change may be too slow in coming.

"It is by no means certain that U.S. markets will remain in the forefront of the movement toward 'round-the-clock global securities trading,'" noted the OTA, in a report.

In addition to competition already coming from exchanges in London and Tokyo, the report noted that Swiss, German and French exchanges "are making vigorous efforts to increase their volume, automate their activities and modernise their regulatory regimes" by 1992 when European trade barriers come down.

"While U.S. futures exchanges and our over-the-counter market are acting aggressively to put worldwide electronic networks in place, the U.S. stock exchanges have been slower to act. Meanwhile, securities exchanges in many countries are moving toward highly automated markets," added the 106-page report.

"Trading Around the Clock: Global Securities Markets and Information Technology," asked if it was fair to say the study indicated that American market mechanisms aren't ready yet to go global. Vary Coates, project director of the study said: "I think that's fair enough. They've been slow to move in that direction — at least the exchanges are."

Officials at the New York Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange said they hadn't seen the report. OTA officials noted that like all its reports, "trading around the clock" makes no recommendations to Congress but only lays out policy options.

"We say that international securities trading is increasing and will continue to increase and that two things then become important to congress: One is whether American markets are as competitive as they should be with regard to global trading. And secondly, what are the additional risks to American investors and financial institutions," said OTA's Ms. Coates.

Ryzhkov announces pay rise for 7 million Soviets

MOSCOW (R) — Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, seeking support for his sluggish economic reform programme, announced a pay rise for seven million Soviet teachers, nurses and other workers Friday.

A television broadcast to the nation came as details of a rival reform programme of popular radical Boris Yeltsin emerged, including a major privatisation drive and freeing of prices. Ryzhkov said he was concerned by the low salaries of workers in education, health, culture and the social services and had signed a decree to raise their incomes from Jan. 1.

He gave no figure, but said it would affect seven million people, including 2.6 million in health sectors, 2.7 million in education and one million in cultural areas.

Doctors and teachers have traditionally been paid lower salaries than manual workers in heavy industries and far less than their counterparts in the West.

Ryzhkov also denounced a big upsurge in speculation and the smuggling of consumer goods over the western border and said simplified frontier crossing procedures introduced two years ago were being withdrawn.

"Many consumer goods are being taken out, the markets are emptying," he said, appealing for understanding while reforms were implemented.

Items seized at the Mostiska customs post near the border with Poland in just 24 hours included more than 6,000 electric appliances, 52 television sets, 144 washing machines, 3,000 litres of vodka and 200 kilograms of chocolate, he said.

He appealed for all hands to help with the grain harvest, which he said would certainly be "not bad" and better than the 211 million tonnes gathered last year. But he said purchases by the state were going very slowly.

The government's failure to put more goods on shop shelves has caused many Soviet consumers to rally round Yeltsin, the

country's most popular politician, who was elected president of the giant Russian Federation in May.

Yeltsin's programme, the most detailed exposition yet of how he hopes to revive the republic's economy and deliver goods to consumers, was published by the independent press service Interfax Friday.

Called the "500 day confidence mandate," it will have four stages over 18 months. "Basically all government control of prices will be lifted..." Interfax said.

In the first 100 days, the Russian republic, the biggest in the Soviet Union, would introduce guaranteed private property rights for land and means of production, and study production assets, gold deposits, foreign debt and housing.

Under the programme, inefficient industries blamed for slow growth in industrial output would be axed or merged and shares, foreign investment, buyouts and various forms of credit would be introduced.

The plan, which presumably needs parliamentary approval, has been handed to economic experts for refining, Interfax said.

Meanwhile, European Commission chief Jacques Delors said Friday moves by individual Soviet republics to create their own currencies could harm President Mikhail Gorbachev's reform plans.

Delors, on his first official visit to Moscow, said he was surprised some Soviet republics wanted their own money.

"No federation can function if

there is not a single currency to guarantee coherence," he told a news conference.

"It seems to me that, in the present state of economic reform, that would be something to worry about," he said.

The Ukraine, the second most important Soviet republic, said last week it planned to become a neutral state, assume the right to raise its own army and introduce a separate currency.

The Baltic republics have made similar declarations, while the biggest of the 15 constituent republics, the Russian Federation, alarmed the central bank by saying banks on its territory were Russian property.

Soviet central bank head Viktor Gerashchenko said last week that such "partisan sorties" threatened monetary stability.

Delors said the European Community (EC) was willing to help Gorbachev reform his economy along market-oriented lines, but any financial aid package depended on the results of a study which the commission, the EC executive, is due to complete by October.

Gorbachev may know by then what sort and how much help to expect, Delors said. "The Soviet Union needs to technical assistance at least from the West," he said.

EC leaders announced at a summit last month that they would consider financial aid for Moscow, but would wait for the report on the Soviet economy, reforms and aid prospects.



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Dureid Lahham / Madeline Tabar in
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Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Shirley MacLaine in
MADAME SOUSATZKA

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Amro Thlab and Madiha Kamel in
THE DEMONS (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

End of Doe awaited as Liberian rebels advance into Monrovia

ABIDJAN (R) — Diplomats waited anxiously Saturday for the end of President Samuel Doe's embattled government in Liberia as rebel forces advanced into the capital Monrovia.

"We are all hoping that Doe will be killed or will leave the country quickly to get this over with as soon as possible," one Western diplomat told Reuters in neighbouring Ivory Coast.

Rebel forces besieging Monrovia captured the city's free port Friday. Bridges over the Mesurado River linking it with the city centre were littered with the bodies of government soldiers.

The United States, which has a naval task force cruising offshore, has offered to whisk Doe into exile, but U.S. Ambassador Peter de Voss was unable to see the president when he called at his heavily-guarded seaside mansion Friday.

Diplomats in Monrovia said Doe, a former army sergeant who

seized power in a bloody coup 10 years ago, was now a virtual prisoner of his own troops.

Most of these belong to Doe's Krahn tribe, which accounts for only five per cent of Liberia's 2.3 million population.

The diplomats said presidential bodyguards, fearing for their lives after a rebel takeover, were refusing to let Doe leave Monrovia without them.

The rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) walked out of regionally-sponsored peace talks in neighbouring Sierra Leone Thursday saying it was determined to finish off Doe by force.

Chief rebel negotiator Tom Woewiyu ruled out a ceasefire and warned other countries

against trying to intervene.

He specifically rejected suggestions that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) or the United States should send a peace-keeping force to Liberia to prevent a tribal massacre.

The seven-month-old civil war has turned into a tribal conflict, pitting Doe's Krahn tribe and the Mandingo Muslim trading community, which has prospered under Doe's government, against the Gio and Mano tribes which support the NPFL.

Both sides have committed tribal killings and although rebel leader Charles Taylor has pledged there will be no retribution against the Krahn and Mandingos when Monrovia falls, diplomats question whether he will be able to control his poorly-trained and loosely disciplined fighters.

Washington, which has close links with Liberia, a country

founded by freed U.S. slaves in 1847, is playing a key role behind the scenes in trying to end the fighting.

U.S. officials in Abidjan were tight-lipped Saturday about the situation in Liberia.

"There is no information that we have that we are in a position to share on any sort of basis," a U.S. embassy spokesman told Reuters.

Ghana announced it was sending a ship to collect its estimated 2,000 nationals from Liberia.

The official Ghana News Agency said Ghanaian citizens in Liberia were being urged to make their way to Sierra Leone, where the M.V. Tano River would pick them up Thursday.

It was not clear whether the ship would also call at Monrovia. Secretary for Foreign Affairs Obed Asamoah said Friday that Accra was still awaiting clearance from the Liberian government to send the ship in.

3 killed in Kashmir clashes

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Three civilians were killed and two injured Saturday after Kashmiri militants attacked a paramilitary police bunker in Srinagar, summer capital of India's troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

A 72-year-old woman was among the three dead, all killed in their homes when paramilitary forces retaliated against militants who attacked their sand-bagged bunker in Srinagar's old city quarter, a Kashmiri police official said.

The victims were "caught in the crossfire," he said.

Security forces shot the victims inside their homes during a house-to-house search for the militants, said witnesses in the Nawab Bazaar area, where the incident took place. The dead defied a curfew imposed on the old city to bury them in the "martyrs' graveyard" where civilians killed in the seven-month uprising against Indian rule are interred.

Thousands of people shouting pro-independence slogans took part in a funeral procession to the graveyard, witnesses said.

More than 900 people have been killed since January when militants launched an open revolt in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Kashmiri militants have said they will intensify their campaign for independence or union with Pakistan in the weeks leading to India's independence day on Aug. 15.

Three bombs exploded in government offices in Srinagar late Friday but no one was hurt, the police official said.

A curfew remained in effect in Jammu city after violence hit the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir this week for the first time this year. Hindus are in a majority in the city.

About 200,000 rally for opposition in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — About 200,000 people braved rain and mud Saturday to cheer opposition leaders and call for new elections to the South Korean parliament.

"Let the opposition rule," demanded a huge banner fluttering above the crowd, including students, workers and grandfathers with children on their shoulders, at Boromay Park in Seoul's northern suburbs.

The three-hour rally was called by opposition political parties to reinforce their demands for general elections. Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung said earlier this week that the rally would be a test of popular support.

"Like the weather today," Kim told the crowd, "the dark clouds of dirty politics and betrayal of our country are upon us."

Kim called for new general elections and said South Korea's fractious opposition would unite to "help disperse the clouds and let the sun shine again on our country." General elections are not due until 1992.

Yonhap News Agency said 5,000 police were deployed in the park.

The rally was organised by Kim's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), the smaller Democratic Party (DP) and other opposition groups.

Kim and DP leader Lee Ki-Tae, normally at odds with each other, Friday agreed to unite South Korea's divided opposition so that they can provide a better counter to President Roh Tae-Woo's ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

About 700 students and other dissidents at Chonnam University in the southwestern provincial capital of Kwangju held an hour-long anti-government rally Saturday before being dispersed by police using tear-gas, Yonhap said.

Meanwhile, Roh said South Korea would proceed with a five-day opening of the border with North Korea next month despite Pyongyang's rebuff of Seoul's overture.

Tigers blow up road to Jaffna, intensify control over peninsula

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels blew up a causeway and effectively cut off the northern Jaffna peninsula from the rest of the Sri Lankan island, military officials said Saturday.

Friday's attack on the Elephant Pass causeway further strengthened the Tamil militia's hold on the peninsula, which is dominated by the rebels except for four government military installations.

The government sent trucks carrying food and medicine for the residents of Jaffna last week, but the convoy was stranded south of the destroyed causeway, 45 kilometres south of Jaffna town, said the officials.

The military bases, under frequent siege by the rebels, have received supplies by air, but residents have faced acute shortages. Jaffna, 300 kilometres north of Colombo, is the largest town in the 2,072-square-kilometre predominantly Tamil peninsula,

which hunkers westward toward the Indian subcontinent. Jaffna has about 120,000 residents.

A stronghold of the separatist Tamil Tigers militia, it has been the scene of some of the worst fighting since the civil war started again June 11.

Fighting was also reported in the country's eastern districts, which the government claims still to control partially.

Tamil militants are seeking an independent homeland in the eastern and northern districts from Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lanka.

Friday's attack on the Elephant Pass causeway was the most serious blow to the government's efforts to recapture the north. The causeway is the main route to Jaffna along the peninsula.

Officials said the convoys of food and medicine trucks, escorted by members of the Inter-

national Red Cross society (ICRC), will now be unable to reach the peninsula, home for about 1 million people, mostly Tamils.

Military officials said 17 Tamil rebels were killed Friday in two encounters in the east. Residents said three civilians were killed Friday by troops in the town of Batticaloa.

The rebel casualties raise to 2,730 the number of combatants killed in the 13-month-old fighting. A large but unknown number of civilians also have been killed.

The officials said that 10 rebels died when their boat was blown up by a helicopter gunship near Vellavelli village south of Batticaloa, 218 kilometres east of Colombo.

In Kalmunai, also near Batticaloa, troops ambushed and fatally shot seven rebels, they said.

Labour lead over Conservatives grows in new poll

LONDON (AP) — The opposition Labour Party's lead over the governing Conservative Party has edged up two points to 13 per cent, according to a new opinion poll released Friday.

But the national opinion poll found that the conservatives apparently lost no ground from the July 14 resignation of Nicholas Ridley as trade and industry secretary amid protests over his views on Germany's role in Europe. Those remarks had been made in a magazine interview.

The party's standing, at 37 per cent, remains unchanged from a month ago. This figure is far healthier than the Conservatives' showing early this year, when polls put them a record 23 per cent behind the opposition.

The monthly survey for the Independent newspaper and BBC2's Newnight programme contained uncomfortable news for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

It showed that if former Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine were Conservative leader, Labour's margin over the Conservatives would be cut to a mere four points. Heseltine is the front-runner to succeed Thatcher as party leader when she decides to step down.

The new findings, compared to last month's figures, are: Labour, 50 per cent (previously 48 per cent); Conservatives, 37 per cent (37 per cent); the centrist Liberal Democrats, 7 per cent (8 per cent); Greens, 3 per cent (4 per cent); and others, 3 per cent (3 per cent).

U.S. Supreme Court likely to move right after Brennan quits

WASHINGTON (R) — The resignation of the leading liberal on the U.S. Supreme Court gives President George Bush a chance to create the most conservative bench in more than 50 years, legal analysts said Saturday.

The surprise resignation of Justice William Brennan, 84, in a brief letter to Bush Friday night virtually assured conservatives of even greater power to restrict abortion rights and limit moves to redress racial discrimination.

It set the stage for a bitter battle between the Republican White House and the more liberal Democratic-controlled Senate, which must confirm Bush's nominee. In 1987, the Senate rejected conservative Robert Bork for a Supreme Court seat.

Bush said Friday he would begin the process of picking Brennan's successor at a White House meeting Saturday with his chief of

staff, John Sununu, Attorney General Dick Thornburgh and White House General Counsel C. Boyden Gray.

"I've always said I want somebody who will be on the right to legislate from the bench but to faithfully interpret the constitution. So that gives me a wide latitude," Bush said.

The Supreme Court, a branch of the U.S. government, along with the executive and Congress, interprets the law and the constitution, defining the rights and obligations of Americans.

"If the president picks someone who is too far to the right ideologically, then we're going to have a big fight," said Illinois Democratic Senator Paul Simon, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Brennan was the most senior of the court's nine justices. He cited his age and failing health as the

reasons for his resignation, which is effective immediately.

The strenuous demands of court work and its related duties, required or expected of a justice, appear at this time to be incompatible with my advancing age and medical condition," Brennan wrote.

Brennan recently wrote landmark ruling striking down a law that made it a crime to burn the American flag and upholding government programmes against racial discrimination. Named by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956, Brennan was a driving force of the court's liberal wing and a target of conservative criticism.

Despite the court's slow shift to the right in the 1980s, liberals, led by Brennan, held back the conservative majority's willingness to reverse some key individual rights' decisions.

Khmer Rouge threaten town, Phnom Penh urges peace talks

BANGKOK (R) — The Khmer Rouge threatened Saturday to renew the battle for a central Cambodian city. The Vietnamese-backed government urged the Communist guerrillas to return to peace talks.

The government offered followed a big political blow to the Khmer Rouge Wednesday when the United States dropped its diplomatic support for the guerrilla alliance they spearhead.

The guerrilla radio, monitored in Bangkok, said the Khmer Rouge were preparing to launch more attacks on the provincial capital Kompong Thom, about 100 kilometres north of Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge and small units of their non-Communist allies held the city for several hours on June 17 in one of their most ambitious thrusts in 11 years

of war.

The radio report said villagers were helping ferry weapons and food to the frontlines. Preparations had been underway for a week but by warning of the new attack the Khmer Rouge appeared anxious to prevent the Phnom Penh government from savouring its political boost.

The government said the Khmer Rouge and their hacker China should return to peace talks and accept a ceasefire.

"The Khmer Rouge Pol Potists, finding themselves in utter isolation at every international forum, cannot now hide the sun with the palm of their hand by covering up the reality in Cambodia and the crimes they perpetrated," the official SPK news agency said in a report monitored in Bangkok.

They should also cooperate in setting up a Supreme National Council which would pave the way for U.N.-supervised peace talks, it added.

The formation of a Supreme National Council to oversee elections is the essence of an Australian-initiated U.N. peace plan.

Hostility and suspicion have clouded almost a year of talks and there has been little progress in agreeing on how much representation each of four factions should have.

Phnom Penh's statement acknowledged that the Khmer Rouge could not be defeated militarily.

It reiterated that Pol Pot and other leaders associated with their 1975-79 rule, when at least one million Cambodians are estimated to have died, could not return.

Relief underway for Philippine villages isolated by earthquake

MANILA (R) — Helicopters dropped food Saturday to mountain villages isolated by landslides after an earthquake that killed close to 900 in the northern Philippines, officials said.

Five days after Monday's devastating quake hit Luzon Island, destroying roads and bridges, the government is struggling to reach a mountain highway where scores of people were buried alive by landslides and thousands isolated in outlying villages.

Rescue teams flew to Nueva

Vizcaya province where more than 100 were killed and scores missing when landslides buried or swept away mountainside houses in Kayapa town, about 160 kilometres north of Manila.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, overseeing rescue and relief operations, said landslides killed 83 motorists at Dalton Pass, and 2,000 travellers have been marooned on the road linking the northeastern provinces to the capital since Monday's quake.

"Many of the people whose houses have disappeared are missing. I believe they are dead," Solana Mayor Epifanio Galina said over a private radio station about the remote towns.

He warned of a serious food shortage and appealed for relief supplies and heavy equipment to clear the blocked road.

Nueva Vizcaya province is east of the resort city of Baguio where rescue and relief work has focused for the past four days.

Thai government survives no-confidence vote

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's government easily repulsed a no-confidence vote in parliament Saturday.

The motion was voted down 220 to 38 along party lines after a heated three-day debate. The rest of the 357 members of the National Assembly either boycotted the vote or did not appear, some because of Bangkok's notorious traffic jams, which were worsened by rain.

Passage would have meant the coalition government would have had to resign or dissolve parliament and hold new elections. This has never happened in Thailand.

The 61-member opposition

Solidarity Party boycotted the vote after a government minister refused to withdraw his accusation that the party leader cheated on his income taxes.

Opposition parties recently have been accusing government ministers of corruption.

During debate Thursday, Chatichai denied allegations that his daughter had encroached on beachfront land. The agriculture, interior, commerce and other ministers have also been accused of corruption by opposition lawmakers.

In a separate development, increased security has been ordered at Thai embassies abroad after a reported threat by a Muslim militant group, local newspapers said

Saturday.

The nation said Thai intelligence officials were investigating a report that the group threatened to sabotage the Thai embassy and airline office in Ankara, Turkey if authorities prosecute Shi'ite Muslims who allegedly started a riot in southern Thailand in June.

"The sabotage threat is considered a matter of grave concern for the Thai government," it quoted the head of the National Security Council, Suwit Sathanakul, as saying.

The letter from a group that called itself the Brotherhood of Martyrs was received by the office in Ankara of a Western news agency, its office in Bangkok confirmed Saturday. The agency asked that it not be identified.

The nation said authorities in Pattani province have issued arrest warrants for 15 Muslims allegedly behind the riot at the Kruee Mosque in which a deputy provincial police chief and another officer were attacked.

The paper quoted the permanent secretary of the Interior Ministry, Anant Anantakul, as saying security has been stepped up at government offices in the south, where most of the country's Muslim minority live.

About four per cent of Thailand's 50 million people are Muslims. About 95 per cent are Buddhist.

Trial of Romania's 24 top Communists suspended

BUCHAREST (R) — A military court suspended the trial of 24 Romanian Communist leaders Saturday after defence lawyers rejected the presiding judge who tried dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Lawyers defending the 24 former politburo members against charges of genocide said Judge Ion Nistor, who was promoted to rank of general after Ceausescu's trial last December, could not hear another genocide hearing.

"He (Nistor) has already signed a sentence and has been involved in a similar trial. He cannot be objective any more," lawyer Nicolae Cerveni told Reuters.

Ceausescu and his wife Elena were secretly tried before Nistor and other judges after December's uprising and were executed by firing squad on Christmas Day.

Nistor and four other judges and military representatives on the panel decided to suspend the hearing after an hour. Their decision drew gasps from the more than 100 spectators in court.

Romania's Supreme Court will have to decide whether to appoint a new panel, Cerveni said after the hearing.

Only 21 of the defendants, who eight months ago were among the most powerful people in Romania, were in court.

Former Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu and two elderly members were too ill to appear, their lawyers said.

The 24 face genocide charges arising from a telephone conference on Dec. 17 at which they are alleged to have agreed with Ceausescu's orders to shoot demonstrators.

More than 1,000 people were

killed and thousands wounded in the bloodiest uprising in Eastern Europe last year.

The 21 at the tribunal, including former foreign and finance ministers, top ideologists and mayors, filed out of the heavily-guarded courtroom through a crowd of well-wishers and family members.

Former Finance Minister and party veteran Paul Niculescu-Mizil, 66, smiled broadly at the crowd and gave a thumbs-up sign.

Stefan Andrei, 59, a foreign minister for more than 10 years, waved to his actress wife, Violeta.

Others looked pale and drawn. The once-mighty head of the National Council of Women, who gave her name in court as Ana Muresanu, 64, looked in pain as she limped out of court.

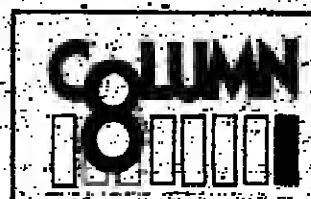
All 24 defendants, three of them women, could be given a maximum sentence of life imprisonment if convicted.

The National Salvation Front which took power after the uprising abolished the death penalty. Dascalescu, captured a few days after the revolution, was reported to have twice attempted suicide in prison.

Legal experts said it was unlikely the proceedings would continue Saturday.

Ex-Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu, Ceausescu's deputy Emil Bobu, and two other ministers have already been convicted of genocide and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Ceausescu's son, Nicu, is on trial accused of genocide in the central Romanian town Sibiu. His case has been adjourned until Aug. 21.



A story by 'fake byline'

NEW YORK (AP) — Some readers of the New York Times were treated Friday to the debut of a writer they never knew existed. Fake byline. Byline's first — and, the Times hopes, last — appearance in the paper came on page A8, where a story about a Texas-Mexico ferry appeared under bold type declaring "By Fake Byline." In smaller type, it said, "special to the New York Times." The story was not supposed to have a byline on it, but our computer format doesn't work without one, explained Times spokeswoman Nancy Nielsen. "We plug in 'Fake Byline' so the format works. It's supposed to be deleted, but..." The byline did not appear in all editions of the Times, so it was not known how many readers saw the glitch, she said.

Teenagers steal hammer and sickle

OSLO (AP) — Two Swiss teenagers vacationing in Norway crossed the Arctic frontier with the Soviet Union and stole a hammer-and-sickle emblem, police said. It was the third incident this month along a Soviet border that has felt little of the East-West relaxation experienced elsewhere in Europe. Armed patrols from both countries still scout the area and an electrified fence guards the Soviet side. But Norwegian authorities turned the incident into a neighbourly gesture. The Norwegian News Agency (NTB) said they caught the teenagers and returned the emblem, taking it to Soviet guards along with coffee and pastries. Acting police chief Tom Gjestvang of Kirkenes, a border district, said the youths waded the Gironde Jakobsef River into Soviet territory and dashed back to Norway with the emblem from a border marker. "This happens from time to time," he said by telephone.

Rome Colosseum to get complete check-up

ROME (R) — The 2,000-year-old colosseum, the eternal city's most famous landmark, will undergo its first complete check-up in nearly two centuries. A group of Rome university archaeologists, engineers and historians have announced a two-year project to assess the stability of the ancient amphitheatre. "Project Colosseum" will use thousands of air and ground photographs to study the stability and condition of every part of the 57-metre-high structure. Using the photographs, computers will make mathematical models of the colosseum to analyse its weak points and study their susceptibility to earthquakes and traffic vibrations. The group said the last full-scale study of the colosseum's problems was in 1810. In the late 1970s experts reported "a deep and worrying fracturing" of columns erected to support an outer ring of the arena. An estimated 50 billion lire (\$40 million) is needed to clean up and repair the colosseum. Professor Renzo Carandini, head of the project, said he would recommend banning traffic near the colosseum and install anti-vibration panels at a nearby underground station.

Garbo's art collection, furniture to go on sale

NEW YORK (R) — The public which Greta Garbo held at arm's length in a lifetime she dedicated to being "left alone" will now have a chance to buy her art works, furniture and rare books. Sotheby's New York office announced that it will sell Garbo's art collection, including paintings by Renoir and Bonnard, and her 18th century furniture, carpets and ceramic figures in three days of sales starting on Nov. 15. John Marion, Sotheby's North American chairman, said he expected the sale to bring in more than \$20 million and generate the sort of public enthusiasm that accompanied the sales of the Duchessa of Windsor's and Andy Warhol's personal collections. The collection was consigned to Sotheby's by Mrs. Gray Ransfield, Garbo's niece and sole beneficiary of her estate, and it comes from Garbo's Manhattan apartment where she lived for decades out of the public eye after ending her career as one of Hollywood's great stars. Garbo died on April 15 aged 84. Marion said that no personal memorabilia will be sold but that the sale will include dining room tables, chairs, lamps and glassware that Garbo used during her lifetime.